

Speaker will guide MPs today on role of Attorney

Speaker is to rule today on whether the House should debate the actions of Mr. Silkin, QC, the Attorney General, before the House of Lords against last night's Court of Appeal ruling in the South mail boycott case. After consulting his colleagues, Mr. Silkin is expected to announce his decision to appeal.

Lords plea likely by Mr Silkin

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Correspondent... Lady Listowel, the... ritons ing genda aft... Correspondent... Lady Listowel, the... ritons ing genda aft...

Probable 2-1 vote for offer on pit retirement

By Our Labour Editor... The miners appear to have voted to accept the National Coal Board's compromise offer on early retirement which will allow most pitmen aged 62 to leave the industry with pensions of four-fifths of their take-home pay this summer.

Snow brings 4-day-week threat to US industry

From Patrick Egan Washington, Jan 30 President Carter has suggested that factories and other businesses in the 12 states hardest hit by the cold and shortage of natural gas should consider going on a four-day week. The President's suggestion is a result of the possibility of a four-day week being imposed by the federal government on an emergency basis.

The emergency worsened sharply at the end of last week with a new wave of cold spreading south from Canada. On Friday night Governor Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia broadcast a warning to people in his mountain state that they should stay indoors. The temperature was well below zero (Fahrenheit) and the wind produced a "wind chill factor" equivalent to minus 30°.

STOP CENSORSHIP

Members of the Troops Out movement demonstrating in Whitehall yesterday against a ban on their use of Trafalgar Square for a rally to commemorate the fifth anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Londonderry. It was held in Hamersmith town hall. A Londonderry march and rally passed without incident. Report, page 2.

New team of IRA bomb experts sought after West End attack

By Stewart Tindler A new and potentially formidable Provisional IRA bombing team is being sought by detectives from the anti-terrorist squad at New Scotland Yard. After the 13 bomb attacks in the West End of London on Saturday morning an explosives expert yesterday pointed to the success rate of the devices planted in shops and offices in and around Oxford Street. In the past similar bombs have failed to work effectively but on Saturday 12 of the 13 devices went off according to plan.



Warning of big rate increases this year

A warning that rate increases were inevitable this year was given yesterday by Mr. Carter Hetherington, secretary of the Association of County Councils, on the BBC radio programme 'The World This Week'. The Government's policy of reducing the taxpayer's burden by £500m would mean a greater burden on the ratepayer, he said. The Government estimated that rates would go up by an average of 15 per cent.

Rhodesia nationalists snub Mr Richard

Mr. Irwin Richard's African mission received a further setback yesterday when the two leaders of the Patriotic Front, Mr. Moyo and Mr. Mugabe, refused to meet him for talks on the future of Rhodesia.

Ford body plant strike goes on

Talks between management and union officials at Ford's Halewood, Liverpool, body plant to try to get 10,000 men back to work ended in deadlock. The company offered a compromise in the dispute over discipline but this was rejected by shop stewards.

TUC plea to US unions

Faster reflation of the United States economy is to be sought by the TUC through its transatlantic counterpart, the American Federation of Labor Congress of Industrial Organizations. American unions fear that President Carter's budget proposals will have no real impact on the American economy for two years.

Health proposal

The Royal Commission on the National Health Service should seek ways of insulating the service from direct government control, the Royal College of Physicians says in evidence to the commission.

Powers for cities

Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a local government conference that some responsibilities might be returned from county authorities to large cities that used to exercise them.

Spanish Premier stands firm

Senior Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister, assured Spaniards in a broadcast that his Government would continue along the political path chosen by the people despite the outbreak of terrorism last week. Four terrorist bombs exploded in Basque country on Saturday.

Woman hostage freed in Chad

Mme. Françoise Claustre, the Frenchwoman held hostage for more than 21 years by rebels in Chad, has been reported released to the authorities in Libya. Her husband, captured in August 1975, when he went to seek her release, was also freed.

India on top

India are in a good position to win the fourth Test match in Bangalore. On a turning wicket, they lead by 163 runs with six second innings wickets to fall.

Leyland denial

Leyland Cars and Ford have both denied that toolmaking work being done for Leyland by Ford has been subcontracted to Germany.

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------------|--------|----------------|------|
| Home News | 2, 4 | Crossword | 22 | Sale Room | 14 |
| Overseas News | 5, 6 | Diary | 14 | Science | 14 |
| Agriculture | 14 | Engagements | 14 | Snow report | 8 |
| Appointments | 14 | Features | 6, 12 | Sport | 8, 9 |
| Arts | 7 | Letters | 13, 16 | TV & Radio | 7 |
| Bridge | 15-20 | Monday Book | 14 | Theatres, etc. | 7 |
| Business | 15-20 | Obituary | 14 | 25 Years Ago | 14 |
| Church | 14 | Parliament | 14 | Weather | 2 |
| Court | 14 | Property | 14 | Wills | 14 |

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C journalists may ignore strike call

BC Editor... Talks between NUJ officials and the BBC to avert the strike are expected before the four-day stoppage is due to begin on Thursday. After the strike call broadcast by journalists who did not agree with the decision by their union's national executive, a committee of opposition formed a committee of opposition. Mr. Michael Vestey, a radio reporter, and a spokesman for the committee, said the idea of a stoppage had been rejected by all three London broadcasting channels (office branches), whose members did not want to be involved in a local dispute.

Lord Chancellor rebukes a judge for criticizing MP

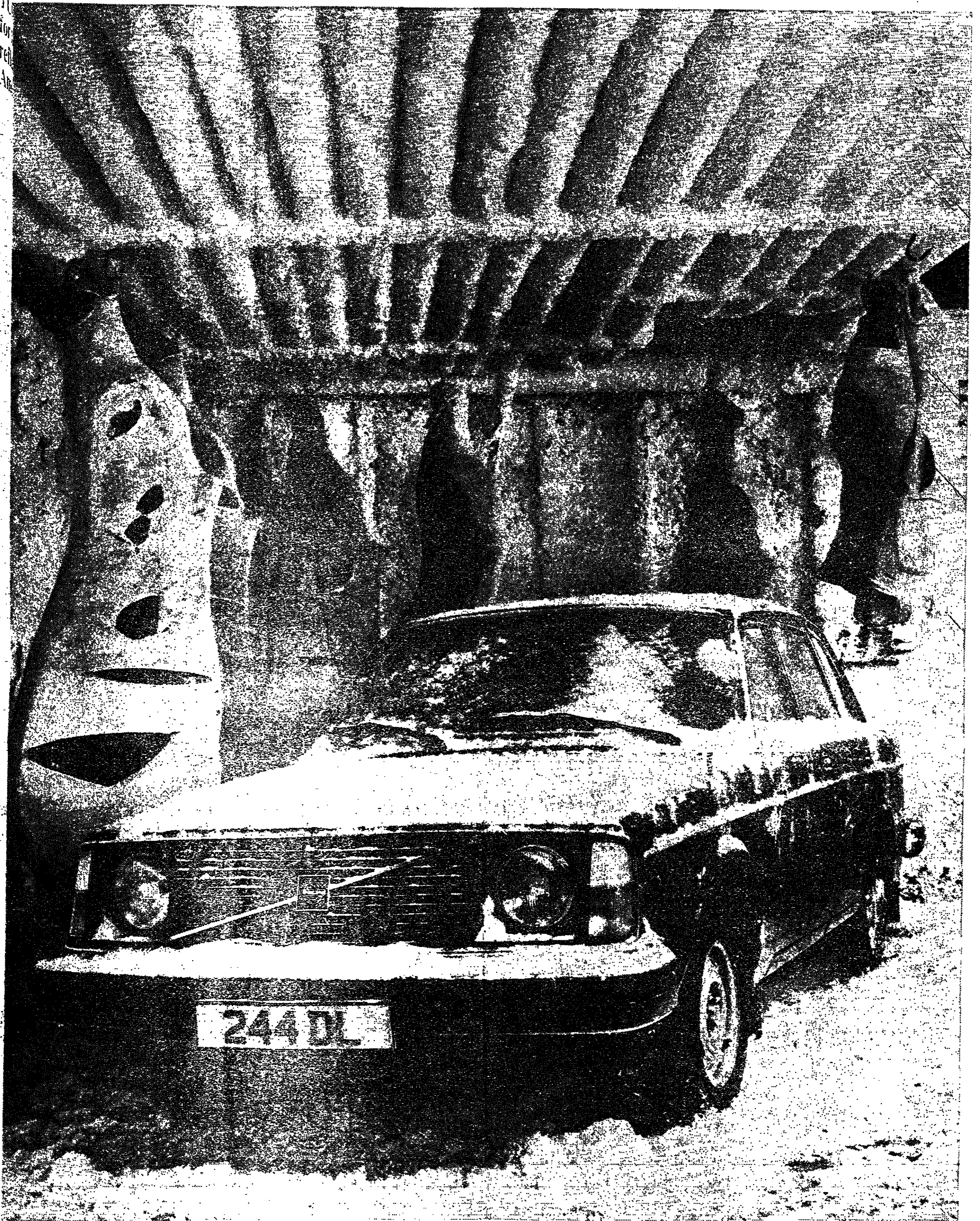
By Our Political Staff... A judge who accused Mr. Eric Moonman, Labour MP for Basildon, of interfering with the course of justice and asked that his actions be investigated as a possible contempt of court, has received a rebuke from Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor.

British Airways halves its fares for holiday flights

By John Carter... The cost of flying to many holiday destinations in Europe will be cut by up to a half from April 1. The cut-price fares are being introduced by British Airways and other airlines, to the dismay of the package holiday industry.

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A WEEK LATER, THE VOLVO STARTED FIRST TIME.

If you're worried about leaving your car out all night this little story might interest you.

We drove an ordinary Volvo 244DL into a refrigerated room normally occupied by several hundred Sunday joints.

We closed the door and left the car there for a week. At night, the temperature was minus 6°C. (Rather chillier than your front drive.)

A week later, an official from the A.A. came to drive the car out. The engine started immediately.

To be honest, this test wasn't too difficult for a Volvo to pass.

In Sweden, the temperature can be sub-

zero for as much as six months of the year and the Volvo is built to cope.

The starter motor and alternator are more powerful than those found on many cars.

The electrical components are well weather-proofed. (In another test, we pumped 1500 gallons of water into the engine and it still started first time.)

And if the Volvo engine is built to withstand severe winters so is the Volvo body.

The rust-proofing is probably better than on any other car you can buy.

In all, some 15 different sections of the bodywork are made from galvanised metal.

(So salt on the roads won't lead to rust on the car.)

Inside, we've also learnt how to weather-proof the Volvo driver.

The heated rear window is rated at 150 watts, so you'll always get a clear view.

The heater is unusually powerful, with a 3-speed fan and thermostatic control.

(It can heat the car up to 27° centigrade, even when there are 25° of frost outside.)

If you'd like a test drive call in and see your local Volvo dealer.

Whatever the weather we promise you a warm reception. **VOLVO 244**

HOME NEWS

Health service should be removed from direct Government control, physicians' college says

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Although recognizing that the Government needs to retain control of a service that spends so much public money, the Royal College of Physicians of London believes that the Royal Commission on the National Health Service should "seek ways of insulating the service from direct governmental control".

The college, which has more than 8,000 members and 3,000 fellows, puts its proposal in its evidence to the commission, published today. It says that the royal colleges are concerned not only with medical competence but also with the standing of medicine as a caring and learned profession.

It notes the ill effects on patient care and on ethical standards of disputes between the Government and the medical profession "which have occurred over many years".

The commission, it suggests, should consider whether such disputes were not bound to continue while the "head" of the health service was a member of the government of the day, since that led to recurrent changes of strategy within the service. The college does not say how the service should be removed from direct control.

The college calls for a continuing investigation of the effectiveness of medical care. It says it is setting up a medical services study unit on the lines of the successful confidential

inquiry on maternal mortality.

The unit will investigate the effectiveness of the care of certain conditions. Such research raises the standard of patient care and monitors professional competence, the college says.

Discussing the best use of medical manpower, it says that in the past the prospects of junior hospital doctors had been made tolerable because more than half had come from overseas for advance training in Britain and had returned home without seeking a career here. But the increased output of British medical schools would mean that most posts would be held by home graduates, who would expect to make a career in Britain.

"We hope that the royal commission will recognize the great problems that will arise instead of taking over the whole service as many doctors at present", the college's memorandum says. Sweepstakes plan: In its evidence to the commission, the Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine, a body of doctors and laymen with no party political affiliations, says that the Health Service should be replaced, not reorganized.

The state must play a part in financing medical care, but instead of taking over the whole service it should provide the heavy capital expense of hospitals, new buildings and equipment, and support the individual in need. A greater emphasis on personal provision and individual involvement was needed.

Much of the money should be raised by insurance payments. Funds raised locally for health care needs should be kept locally, and nationally public interest could be encouraged by a national sweepstakes.

An important effect of raising money for the service other than by direct taxation would be that direct control would no longer be in the hands of the Secretary of State and the Treasury. A health care foundation financed by insurance money should be set up to oversee the provision of the health services.

Cigarette levy: A levy on cigarette packets to pay for the cost of treating diseases related to smoking is proposed by Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) in its evidence to the commission (a Staff Reporter writes). A levy of 5p a packet would raise the price of cigarettes by little more than 10 per cent but bring in £350m a year, it says. The Government has accepted the principle of such a levy in its proposal to charge motorists the cost of treating road accident victims, ASH says.

It urges the Department of Health and Social Security to draw up a long-term plan for reducing smoking. It should include measures to dissuade young people from starting to smoke and to persuade smokers to stop or to change to low-tar brands. A reduction of a fifth in cigarette consumption could, within 10 years, save 8,000 lives annually, ASH says.

Leading article, page 13



Leslie Edwards (centre, foreground), director of the Royal Ballet Choreographic Group, which he founded in 1967, with aspiring choreographers who were members of the cast of the group's performance yesterday at the New London Theatre, Drury Lane, to mark the tenth anniversary of the group's formation. They are, from left, Ashley Killar, whose version of Le Renard was performed at a Henry Wood Promenade Concert last year, Margaret Barbieri, Vyvyan Lorraine, David Ashmore and Brenda Last. The group's presentation yesterday was a workshop performance.

Railway and environment interests involved in formulating roads policy

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

An important move to involve railways and environmental interests in the formulation of Britain's trunk roads policy is expected to be made by the Government this week.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, will be giving details of a committee of inquiry, announced briefly last December, into the justification for motorways and trunk roads, and the official traffic forecasts on which they are based.

Both have come under strong challenge from opponents of the so-called roads lobby, which is accused of having an undue influence on government policy in the transport field.

The only member of the committee to be announced so far is its chairman, Sir George Leitch, a former soldier and civil servant and now chairman of Short Brothers and Harland, the aircraft manufacturers. It will be a small committee, but its membership will be unusually wide-ranging, reflecting the Government's desire to involve all the main groups with an interest in the roads programme in the formulation of the report.

It will have three economists, including a specialist in appraising railway investment and a road investment expert, a civil engineer, a geographer, an industrialist and co-director of one of the leading environmental pressure groups. All will be from outside the Department of Transport.

It is hoped that their report, which will be published, will be ready in about six months.

The terms of reference represent a significant widening of the area of investigation into new roads, hitherto confined mainly to cost-benefit for road users. The committee will take account of their impact on the environment and other forms of transport.

But it will also consider the impact on traffic forecasts of possible investment in alternatives to roads. The terms of reference are:

To consider on and recommend any necessary changes in the department's methods of appraising trunk road schemes and their application, taking account both of economic and environ-

mental factors, and of the extent to which these methods give a satisfactory basis for comparison with investment in alternative methods of transport.

To review the department's method of traffic forecasting, its application of the forecasts and to comment on the sensitivity of the forecasts to possible policy changes.

Sir George Leitch, who is aged 61 and is a pioneer in the analytical techniques of operational research, does not underestimate the complexity of the issue of transport investment.

"With weapons of war you judge by lethality. But how do you judge the value of a roads programme to the community?" he asks. But he is not unhelpful, and expects the committee to approach its task in much the same way as in the area of defence, with which he is most familiar.

He and his committee will begin by "soaking ourselves in the present system so that we really understand it". Then they will immerse themselves in the criticisms of it, a process to which he wants interested parties to contribute fully, preferably in writing. He sees the task as "interesting and important".

The need for it has arisen, he says, "because the suggestion is made that the traffic forecasts are not soundly based, and the roads programme not properly evaluated".

It is important in view of the impact of this programme on the community and its cost of several hundred millions a year, that such criticism is either confirmed or refuted.



Sir George Leitch: Complexity not underrated.

Wider legal aid system sought by lawyers

Changes in the legal system to help people who cannot afford a lawyer but are not poor enough to qualify for legal aid are being recommended by the British Legal Association.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services the association recommends a new legal aid scheme which it says would give access to the law to all who sought it.

Mr Bruce Edgington, the association's general secretary, said yesterday that the financial limits for legal aid were outdated and unrealistic in a time of inflation, and left most people ineligible and therefore unable to have recourse to the law.

"We are suggesting a second-tier legal aid scheme embracing people neither very rich nor poor, so that they too can have the benefit of lawyer representation on an interest-free asset mortgage system operated by the Law Society", he said. They will be granted a legal aid certificate against the security of floating charge over all their assets, like their house, car, or life insurance policies.

Second-tier legal aid would not burden the taxpayer unduly, nor would individuals have to pay crippling interest rates,

raising the cash before proceedings.

The association is also gesting that responsibility for legal aid in criminal cases should be transferred to the Home Office to the Law Society.

It wants all civil cases start in the county court, says the many different tribunals should be absorbed into the county court system, should be fixed dates and times for all court cases.

If a contract for the purchase of property is not entered by a solicitor, signed without advice, a qualified lawyer, the association believes there should statutory cooling-off period with hire purchase, to legal advice to be obtained before the contract is binding in law.

The association says when the Law Society complains against some of which are ill-fared or malicious, reasons should be given for rejection or annulment.

It wants older schools to be taken to the court suggests that the nurse case they are going to could be explained to the lawyer. That would better publicise legal rights and obligations.

Union blocks work aid for young

By Mark Jackson, of The Times

Educational Supplement

The Government's work-experience scheme for school leavers has been virtually "blacked" by the Civil Service unions. The staff side of the National Whitley Council is withholding its consent for the introduction of the scheme in government establishments and agencies.

The scheme, under which young people between 16 and 18 spend six months in a work place under close supervision, is widely regarded as one of the most constructive of the short-term measures to counter youth unemployment.

But even the Manpower Services Commission, which is trying to persuade enterprises including the nationalized industries and local authorities to participate, cannot take any school leavers into its own offices.

The Civil Service Department says it is awaiting a reply to its request for cooperation from the staff side. But the executives of the two biggest unions have voted against the proposal.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, general secretary of the Association of Civil and Public Servants, says the scheme is largely a "smoke", as the Civil Service is not prepared to provide the extra experienced staff the union says are necessary.

But for the unions collectively the ban appears to be largely a tactical move in their campaign against the Civil Service's handling of staff reductions. They are angry at what they see as a lack of consultation and want to force government departments to provide fuller forecasts of likely staff cuts.

Myra Hindley moved

Myra Hindley, who is serving a life sentence imposed 10 years ago for her part in the Moors murders, was moved on Saturday from Holloway to Durham prison.

More links between industry and Whitehall urged

By Peter Hennessy

A greater exchange of men and ideas between private industry and Whitehall is called for today by Sir Douglas Allen, head of the Home Civil Service.

Writing in *Management Review and Digest*, the monthly journal of the British Institute of Management, he says the best way to achieve cross-fertilization is through joint courses and conferences.

"The essentials of the management task are the same and it is desirable that there should be a cross-fertilization of ideas where good management practices are concerned to the maximum extent possible. Above all, a much better understanding of each other's job is very much in the national interest," he writes.

Without the profit motive it

was difficult to measure the efficiency with which the Civil Service carried out its managerial tasks. New methods were being sought, but in the fields of taxation and social security, where the bulk of Civil Service manpower was concentrated, pressures towards consistency and equity of treatment inhibited the delegation of authority to individual managers and imposed extra costs. Will the Treasury split? page 6

Journalist cleared

Miss Jenny Harris, news editor of *North West Gazette*, was cleared by the union on Saturday of maliciously criticizing Mr Ron Knowles, editor of *Journalist*, the National Union of Journalists' paper.

Decrease in population reaches 450 a day

By Our Social Policy

Correspondent

The population of England and Wales was falling by 450 a day during the six weeks up to January 24, the latest figures from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show. There were 77,932 deaths in the period, and 58,955 births, a gap of 18,977.

Although births are always low and deaths high in winter, the excess of deaths over births is much bigger than during the same six weeks in 1975-76, when the figure was 11,133.

In 1976 as a whole there were 583,520 births, 18,606 fewer than in 1975. Deaths were up by 15,410 to 595,183. That gave a "natural" loss of population in England and Wales of 11,633.

The overall loss would have

been bigger if emigration had continued to exceed immigration as in previous years. Births exceeded deaths in 1974 and 1975, but the natural increase was eliminated by "net emigration", with the result that the United Kingdom population fell by 15,600 in 1974 and 8,100 in 1975.

Because the proportion of women of child-bearing age is increasing, it is believed that the birth rate will climb again soon. But the continuing fall has confounded previous expectations.

From a narrow economic point of view, however, in the light of the proposed cuts in public expenditure, the present trend is reducing numbers among two of the groups most dependent on social provision: the young and the old. Life expectations, page 6

THE CRIPPLING COST OF KEEPING EUROPEANS HEALTHY.

Europe, under the influence of Socialist and Christian Democratic policies, is spending astronomical sums on improving its social welfare services. Health, pensions and unemployment benefits are taking huge bites out of the member countries' resources, giving enormous headaches to their respective Financial Ministers.

In tomorrow's issue, Europa looks in detail, at the individual states' costs of keeping their populations happy and healthy.

The interview this month is with Wilhelm Haferkamp, Europe's new Commissioner for External Affairs. Herr Haferkamp discusses his new role, and examines the problems of the trade imbalance with Japan and the United States. In addition, Japan's trade practices, particularly those in her motor industry, are outlined in a separate article.

Also, in tomorrow's issue, Europa talks about the weight of Europeans in the new Carter Administration and the probable effect of their influence on a post-Kissinger situation.

Published on the first Tuesday of every month, under the editorship of Jacqueline Grapin, Europa deals with economic, financial and industrial affairs and allied social questions, as they affect the total European business Community.

Europa is written by the most respected writers in Europe and is published simultaneously with the newspapers they represent: The Times, Le Monde, La Stampa and Die Welt. Articles are up-to-date and translated into the mother-tongue immediately before publication in each of the four countries.

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Youth charged over football supporter's death

Police said yesterday that a boy of 16 was charged with the death of a football supporter on Saturday.

The man who died, Mr Gerald Comerford, of Netherland, near Dudley, a Wolverhampton Wanderers supporter, was fighting his way through a crowd of football supporters on Saturday.

She said that members of the executive committee had come under pressure to disassociate themselves from remarks she had made on Mr Powell's recent statement on "the risk of racial civil war in Britain".

Labour MP to face local party over race remarks

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, Labour MP for Northampton, North, said yesterday that she would explain her attitude to Mr. Enoch Powell's views on immigration at a meeting of her constituency party's general management committee on Friday.

She said that members of the executive committee had come under pressure to disassociate themselves from remarks she had made on Mr Powell's recent statement on "the risk of racial civil war in Britain".

Some constituents felt that her views were too close to Mr Powell's. To its credit, the executive had refused to condemn her, Mrs Colquhoun said. "They know that I am not a racist."

She added: "My concern is with the underprivileged. I want to see more done to help the poor black and the poor white in inner-city areas." Politicians of all parties had preferred to use Mr Powell as a bogymen rather than tackle real problems.

116 people deported under Immigration Act

A total of 116 people have been deported under section 3(5)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971, since it came into force on January 1, 1973. It is not normal practice to disclose names.

The countries of origin of the persons deported were: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hongkong, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, United States, Zaire.

The reason for deportation in each case could not be provided without disproportionate costs. In none of the cases was the decision to deport taken on grounds of national security or any of the other reasons to which Section 3(5)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 applies. Home Office, Dec 23

Parliamentary constituencies: The total number of electors on the 1976 register is 33,928,417 in England and 2,046,404 in Wales. England has 516 parliamentary seats and Wales has 36. Home Office, Jan 20

Post Office mail: The percentages of inland and overseas mail posted between December 1 and 24, 1976, and in the same period in 1975, were: First class, 30.1, 30.9; second class, 69.9, 69.1. The number of inland parcels handled between April and September, 1975, was 80.2 million, in the same period in 1974 the figure was 90.1 million.

The number of inland and overseas letters handled between December 1 and 24 was 929.5 million in 1976 and 904.9 million in 1975. The number of parcels was 14 million in 1976 and 15.2 million in 1975.

The percentages of inland mail posted in the same period for 1975 and 1974 were: First class, 34.5, 44.0; second class, 65.5, 55.0. Industry, Jan 18

Office of Fair Trading: The cost to public funds of the Office of Fair Trading has been £2,258,505 to December 31, 1976. Prices, Jan 20

Awaiting trial: The average waiting time in weeks between committal and trial of contested criminal cases during July to September, 1976, at Crown Courts were: Birmingham, 11.8; Bristol, 5.8; Cardiff, 12.4; Chelmsford, 12.4; Leeds, 12.6; Liverpool, 10.7; Manchester, 11.2; Newcastle, 8.7; Norwich, 12.1; Nottingham, 11.5; Swansea, 10.4; Winchester, 7.8. Attorney General, Jan 24

Television licences: Colour and black-and-white television licences in force in Britain on November 30, 1976, numbered: England 15,117,000 (7,958,000 colour,

were: First class, 30.1, 30.9; second class, 69.9, 69.1. The number of inland parcels handled between April and September, 1975, was 80.2 million, in the same period in 1974 the figure was 90.1 million.

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7,755 and 612.50 (£5.48 and 58.1972, 55.75 and £10.90 (£5.34 and £8.62); 1972, 55 and £9.70 (£4.88 and £7.47). Social Services, Jan

Sources of revenue: Forty per cent of central Government revenue last year was derived from taxes on income, with per cent coming from taxes on expenditure and 20 per cent from national insurance and other contributions. The Treasury, Jan 1975, 45.3, 28.5 and 19.1; 1974, 46.7 and 14.8; 1973, 46.8, 28.2 and 13.4; 1972, 43.1 and 10.5. Exchequer, Jan

Royal Assent: The number of Bills which received the Royal Assent in each session from 1 to 1975-76 was: 1975-76: 1974-75: 1973-74: 1972-73: 1971-72: 1970-71: 1969-70: 1968-69: 1967-68: 1966-67: 1965-66: 1964-65: 1963-64: 1962-63: 1961-62: 1960-61: 1959-60: 1958-59: 1957-58: 1956-57: 1955-56: 1954-55: 1953-54: 1952-53: 1951-52: 1950-51: 1949-50: 1948-49: 1947-48: 1946-47: 1945-46: 1944-45: 1943-44: 1942-43: 1941-42: 1940-41: 1939-40: 1938-39: 1937-38: 1936-37: 1935-36: 1934-35: 1933-34: 1932-33: 1931-32: 1930-31: 1929-30: 1928-29: 1927-28: 1926-27: 1925-26: 1924-25: 1923-24: 1922-23: 1921-22: 1920-21: 1919-20: 1918-19: 1917-18: 1916-17: 1915-16: 1914-15: 1913-14: 1912-13: 1911-12: 1910-11: 1909-10: 1908-09: 1907-08: 1906-07: 1905-06: 1904-05: 1903-04: 1902-03: 1901-02: 1900-01: 1899-00: 1898-99: 1897-98: 1896-97: 1895-96: 1894-95: 1893-94: 1892-93: 1891-92: 1890-91: 1889-90: 1888-89: 1887-88: 1886-87: 1885-86: 1884-85: 1883-84: 1882-83: 1881-82: 1880-81: 1879-80: 1878-79: 1877-78: 1876-77: 1875-76: 1874-75: 1873-74: 1872-73: 1871-72: 1870-71: 1869-70: 1868-69: 1867-68: 1866-67: 1865-66: 1864-65: 1863-64: 1862-63: 1861-62: 1860-61: 1859-60: 1858-59: 1857-58: 1856-57: 1855-56: 1854-55: 1853-54: 1852-53: 1851-52: 1850-51: 1849-50: 1848-49: 1847-48: 1846-47: 1845-46: 1844-45: 1843-44: 1842-43: 1841-42: 1840-41: 1839-40: 1838-39: 1837-38: 1836-37: 1835-36: 1834-35: 1833-34: 1832-33: 1831-32: 1830-31: 1829-30: 1828-29: 1827-28: 1826-27: 1825-26: 1824-25: 1823-24: 1822-23: 1821-22: 1820-21: 1819-20: 1818-19: 1817-18: 1816-17: 1815-16: 1814-15: 1813-14: 1812-13: 1811-12: 1810-11: 1809-10: 1808-09: 1807-08: 1806-07: 1805-06: 1804-05: 1803-04: 1802-03: 1801-02: 1800-01: 1799-00: 1798-99: 1797-98: 1796-97: 1795-96: 1794-95: 1793-94: 1792-93: 1791-92: 1790-91: 1789-90: 1788-89: 1787-88: 1786-87: 1785-86: 1784-85: 1783-84: 1782-83: 1781-82: 1780-81: 1779-80: 1778-79: 1777-78: 1776-77: 1775-76: 1774-75: 1773-74: 1772-73: 1771-72: 1770-71: 1769-70: 1768-69: 1767-68: 1766-67: 1765-66: 1764-65: 1763-64: 1762-63: 1761-62: 1760-61: 1759-60: 1758-59: 1757-58: 1756-57: 1755-56: 1754-55: 1753-54: 1752-53: 1751-52: 1750-51: 1749-50: 1748-49: 1747-48: 1746-47: 1745-46: 1744-45: 1743-44: 1742-43: 1741-42: 1740-41: 1739-40: 1738-39: 1737-38: 1736-37: 1735-36: 1734-35: 1733-34: 1732-33: 1731-32: 1730-31: 1729-30: 1728-29: 1727-28: 1726-27: 1725-26: 1724-25: 1723-24: 1722-23: 1721-22: 1720-21: 1719-20: 1718-19: 1717-18: 1716-17: 1715-16: 1714-15: 1713-14: 1712-13: 1711-12: 1710-11: 1709-10: 1708-09: 1707-08: 1706-07: 1705-06: 1704-05: 1703-04: 1702-03: 1701-02: 1700-01: 1699-00: 1698-99: 1697-98: 1696-97: 1695-96: 1694-95: 1693-94: 1692-93: 1691-92: 1690-91: 1689-90: 1688-89: 1687-88: 1686-87: 1685-86: 1684-85: 1683-84: 1682-83: 1681-82: 1680-81: 1679-80: 1678-79: 1677-78: 1676-77: 1675-76: 1674-75: 1673-74: 1672-73: 1671-72: 1670-71:

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ministers may face bribery trial

Correspondent
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ministers should be
trial on corruption
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Italy faces more austerity measures

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Jan 30
Signor Andreotti, the Italian
Prime Minister, faces a week of
difficult decisions on new
austerity measures, after the
realization that last week's
agreement on labour
between industrialists and trade
unions is inadequate to steer
the economy towards recovery.
A Cabinet meeting tomorrow
is expected to approve decrees
giving legal force to some of
the points agreed between Con-
findustria, the industrialists'
organization, and the unions,
particularly the exclusion of
indexed cost of living wage
rises from severance pay com-
putations.
Leaders of the parties keep-
ing the minority Christian
Democratic Government in
office by abstaining in parlia-
mentary votes, are to meet on
Thursday to discuss the new
round of austerity measures. If
all goes well, the Cabinet is
expected to approve the new
measures on Friday.
During recent months the
government's austerity mea-
sures, designed to take about
5,000,000 lire (£1,300m) out of
the economy, have been a series
of improvisations taken in the
hope that they may prove to be
the last, and that they will
loosen the purse strings of the
international monetary fund for
a \$530m (£131m) standby
credit which Italy has been try-
ing to obtain for a year.
The new measures are re-
ported to envisage the lowering
of industrial costs by transferring
about 1,200,000 lire of social
insurance charges to the state.
The Government is reported to
be considering financing this
by increases in value-added tax
and in the prices of certain
petroleum products.

British trawler skipper ordered to pay £15,000

Thorshaven (Faroe Islands),
Jan 30.—A British trawler
skipper has been ordered to
pay £15,000 in fines and court
costs for fishing within the
Faroe Islands' 12-mile terri-
torial limit.
Mr Raymond Charles, whose
Aberdeen-registered trawler
Japonica was seized on
November 5, was given one
month to appeal.
The court's decision came one
day after a Faruense skipper
was imprisoned in Lerwick in
the Shetland Islands pending
payment of a £20,000 fine for
fishing within Britain's 12-mile
territorial limit.—Reuter.

Five killed in Swiss air crash

Solothurn, Switzerland, Jan
30.—Five people died when a
light aircraft crashed in the
Jura mountains near here.
The two-engine Cessna 421
aircraft, registered in West Ger-
many, was on a flight from
Bern to Basle. The police
blamed bad weather for the
crash.—Reuter and AP.

Pro-Europe MPs press for action on elections

By Our Political Correspondent
Pro-Europe MPs in all
parties will attempt to put
Ministers "on the spot" on
February 7 for their refusal so
far to produce legislation to
enable direct elections of the
British delegation to the Euro-
pean Parliament to take place
by the target date of May or
June, 1978. The MPs accuse
the Government of delay and
evasion.
The opportunity is provided
by the Private Members'
Motion put down by Mr Hugh
Dykes, MP for Havrow East, a
member of the present Conser-
vative delegation to the Euro-
pean Parliament.
It calls on the Government
"to fulfil its undertaking to
Parliament to introduce leg-
islation... and notes that unless
this is published forthwith

Pro-Europe MPs press for action on elections

there will be insufficient time
for the Boundary Commissions
to complete the necessary work
to meet the official target date
of May/June, 1978."
It also points out that "fail-
ure to bring forward the Bill
at the earliest opportunity may
prevent such elections taking
place in any of the member
states as provided in the Sep-
tember, 1976, convention to
which Her Majesty's Govern-
ment was a signatory."
Mr Dykes said yesterday
that many MPs were becoming
seriously alarmed at the delay.
"This Bill is as important as
devolution, if not more so," he
said. "Other countries are
going ahead with preparations.
All the main obstacles have
been removed in France, and
Mr Crosland, the Foreign
Secretary, said in Luxembourg
on January 12 that any
country that dragged its feet
on this would bear a heavy
responsibility."

OVERSEAS



Snow blocking a street of Buffalo, New York State, gives an impression of the huge problem facing the authorities in the eastern United States and the Mid-West. Even Florida has been hit by severe cold.

Mr Carter: Fuel crisis here to stay

Continued from page 1
A lesser problem than the
shortage of gas is the shortage
of fuel in some places caused
by frozen rivers and canals and
impassable roads which prevent
delivery of supplies. The Ohio
is frozen at Louisville and the
Mississippi is frozen above St
Louis. The upper Chesapeake
Bay is impassable and the
Potomac is frozen at Washing-
ton. The river is half a mile
wide here and people skate
across it despite warnings by
police that it might be danger-
ous.
The day after his inaugura-
tion President Carter said:
"Today's crisis is a painful
reminder that our energy prob-
lems are real and cannot be
ignored." His special assistant
for energy, Mr James Schles-
inger, insisted to Congress last
week that the United States
must become serious about con-
servation.
The energy crisis of 1973,
caused by the quadrupling of
the price of Arab oil and the
oil embargo, has left few traces.
Americans still consume far
more energy than any other
people and the effects of the
exhortations to conserve which
were poured out in past few
years have proved derisory.

Patriotic Front leaders refuse to meet Mr Richard for talks

Lusaka, Jan 30.—Mr Ivor
Richard, the British envoy,
faced the final breakdown of
his Rhodesia peace mission
today when two key African
nationalists refused to meet
him in the Zambian capital.
Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr
Robert Mugabe, joint leaders
of the Patriotic Front, said any
encounter with the British
negotiator would be a futile
exercise.
They also refused to meet
Mr Richard separately and
their statement appeared to
rule out any less prospects for
resumption of the Geneva
conference on the future of
the white-ruled territory.
Mr Mugabe flew to Mozam-
bique several hours before Mr
Richard arrived here from
Botswana.
The British envoy, chairman
of a deadlocked Geneva
talks, had been hoping to meet
the two nationalist leaders to
discuss his latest settlement
terms, which were rejected last
Monday by Mr Ian Smith, the
Rhodesian Prime Minister.
Mr Richard said the Patriotic
Front leaders may have refused
to meet him through a mis-
understanding of the status of
the Geneva conference. "We
have never said the whole pro-
cess is at an end," he told
reporters.
Asked if he felt rebuffed by
the Patriotic Front, the British
envoy said: "I feel much more
rebuffed by Mr Smith than by
the Patriotic Front."
Mr Richard said he expected
to meet Mr Crosland, the

Prague tries smear campaign

Prague, Jan 30.—The Czech-
oslovak authorities' efforts to
suppress the Charter 77 civil
rights movement today appeared
to have taken a more subdued
form. The issue is beginning to
affect the country's interna-
tional standing.
The state television, comment-
ing on one of the latest develop-
ments in the drive against
signatories of the manifesto,
said last night: "Czechoslovakia
had never intended to deport
anyone."
It was a clear reference to
an invitation last Friday to at
least six prominent intellectuals
to leave for permanent exile in
Austria. The "offer" was de-
clined by all six.
In sharp disapproval of the
drive against the dissidents,
Norway has postponed a visit
to Oslo by Mr Andrej Barak, the
Czechoslovak Foreign Trade
Minister.
In another development over
the weekend, Ludvik Vaculik,
the writer accused of Government
agencies of mass-producing and
circulating smear photographs
showing him naked with a
woman. A collection of 36
photographs featuring Mr Vacu-
lik and the woman, some in
sexual poses, were pushed into
letter boxes of Western news
agencies in Prague yesterday.
They were wrapped in a
folder with the title: "Mein
Kampf (my struggle) for the
human rights" by Ludvik Vacu-
lik in a clear allusion to Hitler's
political manifesto.—Reuter.

ASHRIDGE ACADEMIC STAFF

We wish to make a number of appointments to our senior
academic and research staff as a result of considerable expansion of
activities in the College and Overseas.
We should like to hear from those in the age range 25-45 years,
with some of the following:
—experience in higher education
—management development
—research in fields concerned with managerial activity
—also an degree level qualification in a discipline relevant to
management education and training.
TIT: The college, which has an international reputation and clientele,
is an independent, charitable trust providing short residential
programmes for managers.
The main activities of the College are concerned with running a
very wide range of short residential programmes for post-graduate
managers. These are held in the College and at various locations
including: Personnel Management, Industrial Relations, and
Management Development. A number of research programmes are
currently in progress. They include investigations for particular firms
into areas which are of current concern. Additional research is
being carried out in other longer term research activities sponsored by public
agencies.
SALARY AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT
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individual and College needs.
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Sadat hint of Cairo trials over riots

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, Jan 30
Both President Sadat of Egypt
and Mr Mawdoudh Salem, the
Prime Minister, intensified at
the weekend their attacks on
the people whom they blame for
the food riots of 12 days ago.
Mr Sadat hinted that there
would after all be trials in
Cairo of those alleged to have
instigated the violence, and he
suggested that the Soviet Union
would "bloody conflict" in
Egypt.
Mr Salem turned in his search
for culprits to the Egyptian
leftists. "I deeply regret to
say," he told Parliament, "that
the Progressive Unionist leftist
party has involved itself shame-
fully in this abominable national
crime."
In a press conference in
Cairo Mr Khaled Mohiedin, the
leader of that party, denied the
guilt of those of its members
who had been arrested. He
accused the Prime Minister of
an aggression on the law for
condemning men before they
had been brought to trial.
Mr Mohiedin has declared the
innocence of his party members
before, in an interview with *The
Times* last week, but tonight he
invited journalists from every
Egyptian newspaper to listen to
his attack on the Government.
By calling a press conference
he has (if the Egyptian press
reports his words tomorrow)
opened a public debate over
the reason for the riots, some-
thing which the Government
presumably did not intend.
Officials in Cairo are be-
lieved to be studying ways of
raising food prices again, but
this time in stages. President
Sadat would rather make up
his budget deficit from other
sources, but at least one senior
Western economist here says
that he has no option but to
withdraw food subsidies gradu-
ally if he wishes to persuade
the World Bank and the Inter-
national Monetary Fund to make
further loans to Egypt.
Mr Mohiedin admitted that
his party had sent out two
"diversionary" rallies during the riots.
The second of these told mem-
bers to support the "popular
movement" against the price
increases. He said, however,
that the Progressive Unionists
were being made a scapegoat.
He seemed less comfortable
when a journalist noticed two
envelopes lying beside him,
each marked: "Embassy of the
Soviet Union." Mr Mohiedin
said, with a slight smile, that
they were invitations to a
reception.
In his speech yesterday to
trade unionists in Cairo, Mr
Sadat welcomed dialogue but
not destruction. Three countries,
he said, were escalating over the
riots in Egypt-Israel, the Soviet
Union and Libya. He asked
trade unionists to "purge your
ranks of the groups that take
their orders from abroad".
The "communist plot" in
which the Government has come
to believe, is still being re-
fined. The newspaper
Al-Akhbar said that the arrests
of communists in Rabat indicat-
ed the "endless chain of com-
munist conspiracy in the Arab
world".
The same newspaper con-
tained an attack today on Mr
David Hirst, the Middle East
correspondent of *The Guardian*,
who was expelled from Egypt
last week. It claimed that Mr
Hirst had long predicted a revo-
lution in Egypt which never
materialized. He "spread lies,
echoed rumours and fomented
poison".

OVERSEAS

More to fear in India than 'under British'

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Jan 30

Mr Morarji Desai, the leader of the Janata Party, a newly formed alliance of opposition parties, told a mass meeting here today that democracy has been "vaccinated" in India and that the atmosphere of fear now prevailing was much worse than in the days of British rule.

Mr Desai, a former Deputy Prime Minister who had spent 15 months in detention, was speaking at a rally here marking the opening of the opposition alliance's election campaign. He urged the people of India to oust the ruling party if they wanted the emergency to go.

The theme of major Janata rallies in Patna, Jaipur, Kanpur and elsewhere was the same as in Delhi: a call for a struggle against dictatorship and for democracy.

The omissions and commissions of the Government during the emergency were vehemently criticised and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, came under special attack for having "accumulated power for herself and her family".

The non-communist Janata platform was used in turn by leaders of the alliance's constituent parties—the Jan Sangh, the Opposition Congress, the Indian People's Party and the Socialist Party—at the mass election meetings.

Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, the veteran reformist politician, told a rally in his home town of Patna that what mattered more than the March elections was that democracy must win.

At Jaipur, the opposition election meeting was addressed by Mr Chander Shekhar, a former member of the ruling Congress Party's working committee. Mr Shekhar alleged that the economic policies of the Government "helped the capitalists".

Delhi, Jan 30.—Mrs Gandhi and her son, Sanjay, the head of the youth wing of the ruling Congress Party, opened their election campaign yesterday, just ahead of the Janata campaign—with speeches critical of the opposition.

Mrs Gandhi told a large gathering of teachers, textile workers and young Congress members outside her home here that some people had construed the meaning of politics as rumour-mongering and making baseless allegations, thereby lowering the standards of public life. Political freedom did not mean licence, she added.

Mr Gandhi, who told a public meeting in the Orissa state capital of Bhubaneswar that opposition parties were fighting shy of the challenges of the election. After demanding the polls for many months, they were now claiming that they were not prepared and wasted more time, he said.—Reuter.

Greek-Turkish meeting creates hopeful mood

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Jan 30

A successful meeting between the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers in Strasbourg yesterday continued the prospects of a Greek-Turkish understanding, already enhanced by exchanges between President Makarios of Cyprus and Mr Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in Nicosia, had greatly improved.

Mr Demetrios Bistinos, the Greek Foreign Minister, who returned to Athens today, told Greek journalists that the climate prevailing during his discussions with Mr Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, his Turkish opposite number, should rule out "a recurrence of last summer's Aegean crisis".

The two ministers are known to have focused their attention on the new developments in Cyprus after the Makarios-Denkash meeting on Thursday, which revealed more common ground between the two communities than had hitherto been considered possible.

A joint communiqué said that bilateral relations had been reviewed in a spirit of sincerity and "cordiality"—a word that, as the Athens press pointed out, had not been used for long to describe Greek-Turkish contacts.

Communists freed

Asunción, Jan 30.—The Paraguayan Government has freed four communists after two years of imprisonment. They were believed to be among Latin America's longest-held political prisoners.

World population at 4,000 million

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 30

A baby girl born in Norway has the longest life expectancy in the world—77.5 years—according to the latest issue of the United Nations Demographic Yearbook. A baby boy born in Sweden has a greater life expectancy than any other male—77.1 years.

Those are just two of the figures given in the Yearbook which covers the world up to 1975. It reports on topics such as rates of population increase, infant mortality, maternal mortality and abortion for countries from the American Virgin Islands to China.

It estimates that the total population of the world by mid-1975 was 3,967 million, an increase of 77 million over 1974. That amounts to an annual growth rate of 1.9 per cent which, if maintained, will

Nationalists ignore call for approach to blacks

Apartheid battle lines harden after township violence

From Nicholas Ashford
Cape Town, Jan 30

When it comes to fiddling amid the flames, probably New displayed less disregard for the dangers round him than did South Africa's ruling National Party during the no-confidence debate in Parliament last week.

It was the beginning of a new parliamentary session, the first since last year's violence in the black townships, which left hundreds dead and still threatened to break out again.

The House brimmed with expectation. But all the Government side seemed interested in, despite its overwhelming parliamentary majority, was attacking an opposition which has split into three disparate and quarrelling groups.

For example, Mr M. C. Botha, the Minister for Bantu Administration and the man most responsible for what happens in the townships, devoted almost all his speech to driving a wedge between the 30 remaining members of the United Party and the 12 members of the Progressive Reform Party (PRP), who are now trying to form themselves into a new opposition group.

Black grievances were scarcely mentioned. Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, was hardly any better. The only time during his long, rambling speech when he had the attention of the whole house was when he was speaking about Rhodesia. Never before have white South African politics appeared so irrelevant to the real issues at stake.

There can certainly be no excuse for not knowing what those issues are, or at least what the opposition parties believe them to be. They were

spelt out repeatedly by opposition speakers who gave a warning that the present race policies were courting disaster.

Whatever their own differences, no opposition MP would disagree with the statement made by Sir De Villiers Graaff, the United Party leader, when opening the debate. He said: "The great dream of the National Party has become the great destroyer of the peace and prosperity of South Africa. It is time to destroy the system of apartheid before it destroys us."

The National Party, however, is dedicated to ensuring that the policy of apartheid is not only defended but allowed to flourish. If one point emerged with the utmost clarity, it was that the Government has no intention of budging from its present path.

There was no sign that the Government was considering a reappraisal of its policies despite the growing demands by the Afrikaans press for it to do so. On the contrary, apartheid remains the name of the game and only a few cosmetic changes will be considered to remove the more glaring examples of racial discrimination.

The Government and its supporters totally reject the notion that its policies are the principal cause of black unrest. In their view, the riots were stirred up by outside agitators who take their orders from an unholy alliance of evil and subversive forces comprising the Communists, the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations.

To emphasise this point, Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Police and Justice, produced a rather antiquated communist-made sub-machine gun which he said the police had found in Soweto.

Government ministers also made it clear that South Africa would go alone if the "weak-willed" West was not prepared to join in keeping the advancing forces of international communism at bay. They rejected as double standards and hypocrisy suggestions that the West merely wanted evidence that meaningful change was being contemplated before it could move more openly on to South Africa's side.

However, despite the National Party's apparent refusal to face issues concerning racial unrest, last week's debate did clarify the lines of political conflict in South Africa. As Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, one of the few Afrikaner members of the PRP, put it, from now on the political battle among white South Africans will be between those who want to negotiate with blacks and those who are bent on confrontation.

The United Party and the PRP both want to talk and not fight. But there are fundamental differences between members of both parties over what sort of approach should be made.

This is one of the major obstacles to forming a new opposition party which would reject the extremes of white and black nationalism, and instead try to open the way for a moderate centrist solution to South Africa's problems.

Whether these differences can be overcome without a further split in the opposition remains to be seen. But it is not just Nationalist MPs who find it hard to see a new party being formed in which Mr Vause Raw, the burly United Party right-winger, and Mrs Helen Suzman, the radical conscience of the PRP, could co-habit happily.

Sudan pledge of support for Eritrean separatists

Khartoum, Jan 30.—President Nimer of Sudan today promised to aid the "Eritrean people" in their fight for independence from Ethiopia.

Speaking at a press conference, he accused the Ethiopian military regime of massacring innocent people and using the wrong methods in its efforts to solve the Eritrean problem.

He said the people of Eritrea, who are represented by three rival movements, were "demanding a just right". He said "I will work with the people of Sudan to return the right to its owner". He called the Provisional Military Administrative Council in power in Addis Ababa "a military clique".

Early last month President Nimer accused Ethiopia of harbouring guerrillas hostile to his regime and giving them

military training. Today he appealed to the United Nations and its decolonisation committee to intervene and "stop the bloodbath".

In Addis Ababa, nearly 200,000 people today took part in a mass demonstration of support for Ethiopia's military rulers. They were led by the Head of State, Brigadier General Tafari Bante, who last night called on the nation to form a common front against the country's enemies.

Demanding arms, demonstrations from trade unions and workers' and peasants' associations waved the Ethiopian national flag, brandished placards denouncing anti-Government parties and organizations and attacked the anti-Ethiopian attitude of Sudan and Somalia.—Agence France-Press.

Prisoners of conscience

Cuba
Huber Matos Benitez

By David Watts

Señor Huber Matos Benitez was a teacher and farmer in rural Cuba during the revolutionary ferment which resulted in Dr Castro's victory. He helped the Castro forces in the Sierra Maestra, supplying them with recruits and food.

Pursued by the Batista forces, he escaped to Costa Rica. After Dr Castro's victory he returned to Cuba in 1959 and was appointed military head of the province of Camagüey and provincial director of the National Institute for Agrarian Reform.

But by October that year Señor Matos, with others, found himself in disagreement with the line the revolution was taking.

He resigned as an army major and two days later was arrested personally by Dr Castro and charged with being a traitor to the revolution. After a lengthy trial he was convicted and sentenced to 20 years' jail.

He was first held on the Isle of Pines, but was later transferred to La Cabaña prison in Havana, where he remains.

Señor Matos is in poor health and has been losing the use of his arm as well as suffering from depression, loss of sight, and loss of sleep.

In a letter to his wife smuggled out in 1975, he wrote: "To this very day I do not fear prison. Deprivation of freedom, of space, isolation and privations breed happiness but do not impoverish the spirit. There is something in my situation which gives me more pain than imprisonment itself. It is to be labelled and treated as an enemy of the people."

He is due to complete his sentence in 1979 but is unlikely to be released unless he agrees to "rehabilitation", something he has consistently refused to do.

President Pinochet of Chile has proposed the exchange of Señor Jorge Montes, the designated Communist senator, for Señor Matos, but so far it is understood that there has been no Cuban response.

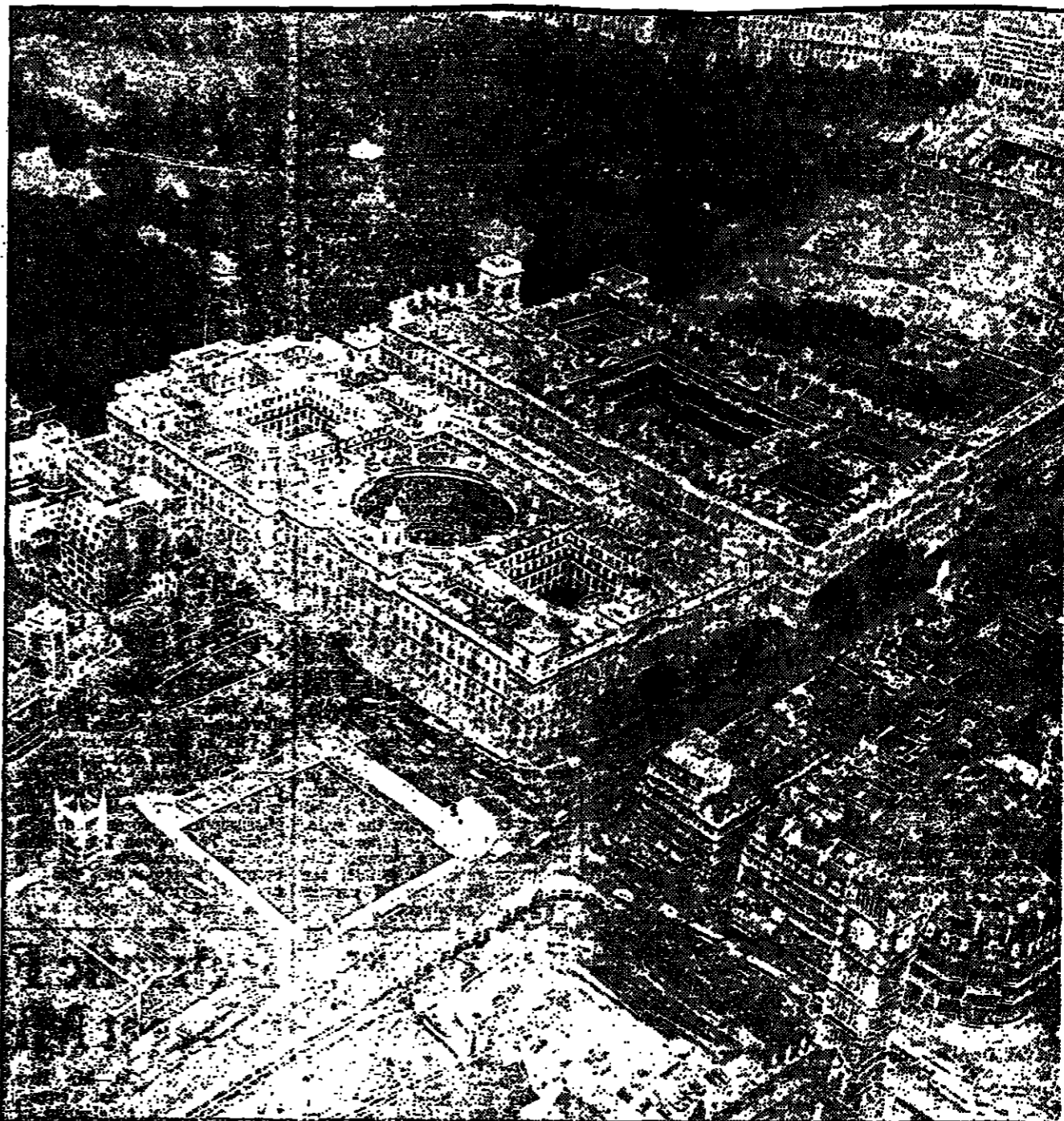
Mr Andreas Dedotis, who featured in the Prisoner of Conscience column on January 24, has been in military prison for 11 years in a Greek military service. Most similar convictions recently have brought a maximum sentence of four and a half years.

TV sets burnt in Pakistan

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Jan 30

Supporters of the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance made a bonfire of television and radio sets and newspapers in Peshawar today in protest against what they called the Government's "exclusive use" of the state-owned television and radio stations and of the National Press Trust newspapers in the election campaign.

When it's all change in the rooms at the top



The temptation for Prime Ministers to tinker with the machinery of government is irresistible. It is the one area of public life where they speak and it is done. Departments can disappear at a stroke and new ones arrive overnight as men from the Treasury and the Agency change a nameplate or two and shunt furniture from one end of Whitehall to the other.

Sir Harold Wilson created no fewer than four new ministries on taking office in 1964. Civil servants said they had seen nothing like it since 1940 and adjectives like "purposive" and "dynamic" were on every minister's lips.

Mr Callaghan has shown firm resolve in such matters, though his changes have been made without the linguistic extravagance of 1964. His dislike of conglomerate departments led the Prime Minister to dismember the Department of the Environment, the most successful of the giants in administrative terms, last September. A Department of Transport replaced it, complete with its own minister and the number of the event in Whitehall could be counted on the fingers of one hand. The centralizing momentum of a decade was put very definitely into reverse and the era of the jumbo department was at an end.

There is a distinct possibility that the Prime Minister has not finished yet. If he harbours further changes at the back of his mind, 1977 could see the most fundamental reorganization of the central departments since the creation of the Department of Economic Affairs 13 years ago. Mr Callaghan has not concealed his dissatisfaction with the quality of economic advice he received from the Treasury and the Bank of England during the desperate slide in sterling last autumn.

The protracted series of Cabinet meetings that accompanied the negotiation of an IMF loan showed one thing very clearly. Never again will a Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer be able to "bounce" Treasury views off his colleagues in the Cabinet room and ram them through unscathed.

Prime Ministerial disquiet with department of state can be resolved in a number of ways—a change of men at the top, involving ministers or civil servants or both; an internal reorganization of the machine within existing departments; or a rejigging of ministerial and departmental responsibilities to create or reflect a new reality. Naturally, no change is always an option.

Stories emanating from the Westminster lobby earlier this month about a new Prime Ministerial "overlordship" in economic and industrial affairs were misleading. Mr Callaghan called a couple of meetings of ministers and civil servants from the economic departments concerned to sort out the general management of the currency and some of the personal difficulties that had arisen between individuals during negotiations for the IMF loan, and, later, the safety net for sterling. It was not a new Cabinet committee, more an informal gathering like Sir Harold Wilson's "X" group of senior ministers who met from time to time. Mr Callaghan has called upon them again but no regular meetings are planned.

Shifting individuals is a delicate matter for a Prime Minister but easily enough done, as is a reordering of policy decisions within a ministry. But breaking up and reforming great departments of state is no simple matter and will not be undertaken lightly by Mr Callaghan for all his confidence and sureness of touch in such areas. He has two clear opportunities to do so this year. There is to be a change of Chancellors in July and the head of the Home Civil Service, Sir Douglas Allen, retires in December.

government has become a major Cabinet preoccupation. The pattern of Cabinet arguments last autumn also demonstrated the weakness of the traditional argument of Chancellors who faced with proposals of this sort that to separate spending from high finance and the raising of revenue does not make sense as the links between them are indissoluble.

During the IMF negotiation public spending was entirely the handmaiden of home and overseas financial considerations. It was not a two-way process at all and the energies of Mr Leo Pliatzky and his team were fixed solely on apportioning cuts rather than the creative reordering of priorities within spending ceilings which they, rightly, see as the primary *raison d'être* of their system of spending control.

The Treasury's internal reorganization of 1975 complicates matters slightly. One third of its spending divisions are now outside Mr Pliatzky's bailiwick and under another Second Permanent Secretary, Mr Alan Lord, who runs the domestic economy sector. Whether they would go to a new ministry in the event of dismemberment is not entirely clear. The case for keeping revenue and expenditure, however, remains a powerful one and militates against change.

The pros and cons are finely balanced. But a Treasury split along these lines would have a better chance of success than the Department of Economic Affairs experiment ever did. It would be far cleaner than the 1964 breakup which deliberately left a great deal of overlap in functions for the purposes of "creative tension". Though the Chancellor and the ministerial head of the Treasury management department would have to get on rather better in personal relationships than Mr Callaghan and Lord George Brown in his DEA days in the mid-1960s. Who would have the more senior Cabinet status would be a sensitive matter. Meshing together parts of government machinery is often easier than perfecting a ministerial balance to accompany it.

Should the Prime Minister decide to reshape the commanding heights of Whitehall next summer or at the turn of the year, a fascinating by-product would be the question of which department should carry the headship of the Civil Service at official level. This title has been causing trouble periodically since it was first given to Sir Warren Fisher on his arrival at the Treasury in 1919. At present it lies with the Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department. But under a new departmental arrangement, it could quite easily go to the senior Permanent Secretary of the "big three"—Finance Ministry, Management Department or Cabinet Office.

One paragraph of Sir Otto's analysis might appeal strongly to Mr Callaghan in his present mood: This concept should be judged in its own right, starting from scratch, and not thinking of it as a truncated Treasury, shorn of the public sector control function. National Economy and Finance (NEF) would have an important role in public expenditure, and would not doubt have a division concerned with it, just as the Treasury now has divisions concerned with fiscal policy and industrial and incomes policy, for which other departments have prime responsibility. In my opinion, NEF would be strong. Its views about the future course of the economy and the need for national action would probably be more readily accepted than the Treasury's are, for these views would not be seen as shots in a campaign by the same minister to cut defence or social services or whatever the current target might be.

The Whitehall scenery has changed since 1971 and some parts of Sir Otto's scheme would no longer be appropriate. His aim was to strengthen the centre against the jumbo departments trampling the periphery of Whitehall. Their day is already over.

But the case for putting Civil Service manpower with public expenditure control is stronger than ever. The cost of central

wherever he happened to. The headship involved in the Senior Appointments Selection Committee, finds 44 permanent secretaries and 147 deputy secretaries staff the summit of the hall pyramid. Advising honours and public appointments and responsibility semi-independent Civil Commission, which recruits, also go with the job.

The legendary Sir E. Bridges for one year after Second World War did the "big three" jobs, a concurrently as head of Civil Service, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and Secretary of the Cabinet, with remarkable lightness of touch even found time on occasion to "close down the shop" put it, for half an hour, he edited the letters of father, Robert Bridges, the Laureate. Sir Norman took the Cabinet Secretary in 1946 and, on Bridges's death in 1956, assumed the Treasury job with respect for appointments and power. The strain is as have accounted for Bridges's mature death in 1962.

Clearly a single man, now repeat Bridges's account given the vast lot in the volume of government business since 1945. But I current edition of *Administration*, Sir James Act, former Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and one of the dominant figures in Whitehall in the 1960s and early 1970s, re the debate by suggesting

the headship is far less on today than in the reform aftermath of the Fulton Report of 1963, and should go with Cabinet Secretary post.

"There is one permanent secretary who is in day-to-day touch with the Prime Minister—the keeper of his conscience. If you like, in the same way as the head of a government department is the keeper of his conscience, so the Prime Minister is the keeper of the nation's conscience. What they of look is that Lord Norman did not have two secretaries plus a considerable number of deputy secretaries. Sir James writes:

Few in government would agree that the present arrangement of central departments is entirely right. Whether departmental reorganization is necessary, open to question. Only Prime Minister can decide. What is not in doubt is Callaghan's resolve once mind is made up. One way another, 1977 should be a shattering year for Whitehall watchers.

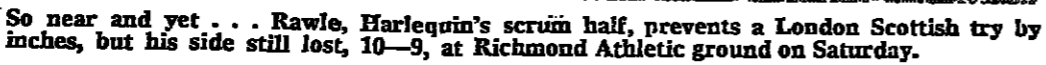
Peter Hennes

Sir Otto Clarke

Sir Norman Brook

Sir Edward Bridges

given no
ge
loseley's



By Nicholas Keith
There is no sign of an imminent

the semi-final round of the county championship by omitting seven of the 11 Coventry players who had represented their county and he

Wasps have spirit to overcome adversity

credit for their victory over Nottingham as Sudbury on Saturday won two goals, four tries and two of the game, it was Isichei, a versatile prop forward, who scored the try that put them back in the top 10.

The last stage goes to Dodge City

The last few minutes of the second half were even more eventful than the corresponding period of the first. I, of course, leading

Beaumont caps fine display by Fylde

Fyldes opponents in the next round, Gordon League, will probably be more rumbustious than Solihull, who did not quite fulfil their promise to beat the

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----|----------|---|---------------------|
| Rugby Union | Oxford Univ | 12 | RAF | 6 | Rugby League |
| | Penryn | 5 | Ordnance | 3 | |
| | | | Svcs | 3 | |

By Michael Seely
Provided that he comes through

his preparatory race at either Windsor or Wincanton with flying colours, Border had been in the Gold Cup and the Ebor. He was owned by Col. Richard Head and was runner-up after having had time to think things over he feels that it would only be fair to let Border have a try at the Ebor. He is the footstep of L'Escargot, who won both the Embassy Premier Final and the Gold Cup in 1970.

[illegible]

accident such a significant ride at Harlock, is worried on one point. His fear is that this highly-structured horse show will be disrupted by the long parade before the Gold Cup. Barry says he has no doubt that the parade will bring his boys before the Lancashire House. Haydock has a comparatively small number of stalls, but they are on the way to the start before the gelding had time to become too agitated. But this is a risk that Head's expertise with Border incident has so far enabled the club to take. The most important factor is that the competition starts in temperate, festive conditions.

In still offer 16 to 1 against Border incident, but Ladbrokes have cut it to 10 to 1.

Ladbrokes also report further

in their armour.

Walwyn is delighted with the progress of Port Devon, whose manager, Billy Cunniff, says he is the Jim Ford Challenge Cup at Wincanton on February 24, which will be the last race before the 5lb to Border Incident. The Saxon House trainer also confirmed that he would like to see Hurdle next Saturday as Dramazine's first race, in which he will again cross swords with Birds Nest, who was beaten by the same margin in a clash with Night Nurse at Doncaster on Saturday. "That's the best chance we've got," he says. "I don't think we're being over-optimistic."

Rob Turmel told me yesterday, "We'll have to run at Sandown tomorrow night so desperately short."

Golf
Rugby League

lead for Great Britain's selectors, who meet in March to pick the party

Watson

La Jolla, California, Jan. 30.—Tom Watson, a former British Open champion, held a two-stroke lead over the field in the first round of the \$180,000 Andy Williams San Diego open tournament here.

Watson, 36, shot a 67, five under par, in the 72-hole tournament.

54 holes total of 200, which qualified the record for the tournament.

Bob Shearer, of Australia, had 63 yesterday for a total of 202.

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Tennis

centenary Wimbledon

from Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Cliff Drysdale, who has been on the team for 15 years, considers that Jimmy Connors is the best player of that period. "He doesn't have the same speed, but he has more power and doesn't need the variety. His stroke is better. You know what I'm going to do but there's nothing in it," he says.

He is vulnerable to a chip in the middle, but unfortunately he is not. Jimmy Connors beat Drysdale in Alabama four times and yesterday defeated him again, this time by a 6-3 score.

Connors, 27, is a member of the United States profes-

sional tour. Drysdale was continually dashing about the run-back, often with a backhand shot. He was hit after a wasted journey Connors punctuated the power with delicacy. He used the short angles and the backhand to some deleterious volleyed drop-shot.

The match made up its enormous value what it lacked in dramatic interest. It was a rapport with each other and with the public, too. Between points they would smile and nod in banter.

When Drysdale muffed an easy backhand in the seventh game of the third set, he gave his opponent a small victory and went off court. Connors did the same,

In the sixth game of the second round, the Cardinals' coach, Tom Cunniff, had the benefit of a "double fault" in the first set. He deliberately double-faulted, and subsequently almost lost the game. Cunniff's said he would probably have done that again. "It was a conscious decision," he said. "I was obviously thought the call was bad so it it was not that bad." I don't think he should have done it, but he did. He said he thought he was going to win the match, but he was wrong, though he thought he was winning the match anyway.

Connors said his target for the year was to regain the Wimbledon title. "I'll take anything," he said. "My birthday anniversary and anything it makes it for a hundred years or so to be good for something." Connors' last Wimbledon triumph came this year's French and Italian championships, which preceded Wimbledon by a few days. He played well. "As long as I have some clay to win Wimbledon I will fight to win it," he said. "Paris and London—until I get a little older and my reflexes are slower."

Drysdale, age 35, did well too.

ockey

Decisive goal for Mobbs

St. Albans 1
A snap goal by Mobbs late in a second half brought St Albans victory over Westciff yesterday.

I took the winners into the first round of the Essex County League club championship, sponsored by Benson and Hedges. St Albans will now meet Bury St Edmunds YMCA, who defeated Bury Town in the first round. St Albans have a reputation for living on the element of surprise, particularly in a hard game such as Westciff, whose players literally fell hard on their weary ground smother them to minimize the first half. The victory surface however did not help either side in the taking of

St Albans who could hardly believe their luck in their first round game. In consequence in the fifteenth minute with a reverse stick shot by Morgan, whose effort was thwarted by the goal-keeper.

St Albans and Granger were tightly marked and were denied the space they needed to put their skills to proper use. But they came out much the better from a second half in which they were only Morgan among the forwards retained his position at inside right.

These positional changes brought more coordination into the St Albans team as a whole, particularly after they had survived a crisis in defence. Beard, their right back, comfortably conscious of the proximity of Ward, made a timely clearance from the goal-mouth.

On the Schweppes Gold Trophy front, there was support over the ground, certainly bears out the trainer's contention.

Recently, having his first run for nine months, True Lad ran a storming race when jockey, Bob Poole, in the Eastern Hunt race at Bay Meadows. His fellow runner, Dickie, thought that True Lad would win at the second last, but lack of condition found him out. With that race under his belt, and a 4-10 shot, the 4th year colt Schweppes, True Lad's stamina, will be seen to full advantage in

The Gloucestershire trainer is convinced that True Lad is a better horse than Lytle, and he is not alone. "I think so," says a Swainston said. "He's only been lightly raced because I wanted to

ive True Lad time to develop
is full potential. Two years ago
e had a reputation for being

season, he finished third to acquaint and Sporadic at Leicester, won a novices event

[illegible]

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WALSLEY: Watkins (Salford) captaining
Walsley (St Helens). Bevan (Warrington)
Cunningham - (St. Helens).

[illegible][illegible]

athletics.

dozen of superior class

Cliff Temple
Athletics Correspondent

The British athletics selectors, to today announce their teams for the world championships, must choose the best athletes of the year, must have no wandering during their week-end meeting whether undertaking the indoor or outdoor season. The indoor competitions in February are such a good idea after all, and have been at R.A.P. Ground, including the national indoor championships, sponsored by the B.P. Co., but instead of seeing an athlete in the best of his condition, they saw medals being awarded to athletes whose index figures at the British indoor championships were so low that they were dog-eared after a head

[illegible]

the main problem is the quality does not necessarily prove quality. The two traditional Christmas last years attracted more than 1,400 visitors. Endless lines of people waited to get in on all day, and for the first time athletes were refused because officials could no longer cope with the vast number. But when that mass was sifted in to the apparent elite for the

North have determination

[illegible][illegible]

Drug clinics: What has gone wrong with the system other countries envied?

It is therefore regrettable that instead of the report being looked at dispassionately and examined in depth and detail, the battle lines are already beginning to form over the minority report itself. This, of course, will be denied and great play will be made of the minority report signed by the three industrialists. However, that minority report, although signed by industrialists, is not a minority report. It is a majority board, and saying that they should have teeth, then goes on to say that the supervisory boards "should not participate directly in the management of the company." They are empowered to initiate policies." In their report, the minority give a list of the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the supervisory boards. It is hard to underline that they will have no say in the management of the company. It is hard to say the effect of these proposals would be "to leave existing structures, organizations and purpose of boards of

In the past, trade unions have been divided over involvement in management. They are divided now. There are some who argue that collective

The author is Labour MP for
Liverpool Walton
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Critics say there is too much emphasis on control and too little therapy.

With the addict population shepherded into the clinics' corral treatment some kind of cure might then be achieved.

One study has estimated 95 per cent of the

more arguments, nevertheless, there is a good case for companies to give greater accountability to those who work for them. I therefore welcome the Lock Report as a first step towards democratic management, and its proposals must be implemented in the form of legislation as soon as practicable. In many ways, industry and

the unions are being asked to
take a leap in the dark, but
that does not mean that we
should not strive to make the
new system of industrial

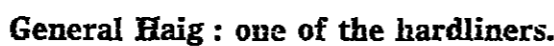
In the past, trade unions have been divided over involvement in management. They are divided now. There are some who argue that collective

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We are weakening Nato, in quality if not in quantity

over the next two years will not affect "the level of our contributions to Nato".

As something like 80 per cent of all our military expenditure arises from our contribution to Nato this seemed to me to require a little supporting evidence. After Mr. R. to effect cuts of £300m without touching the Nato commitment, it would be necessary to cut all other military spending by more than 25 per cent. It is surely unthinkable that the present govern-



could not fail to affect our contribution to the alliance. I believe I am in a position about the same as a little better now than I was a year ago. I am satisfied that there is no thing, worth while, which we can do, which will constitute a real ring in the chain of the world, that some of their interests are of a similar nature.

and anti-aircraft missiles—continues to improve our own troops will have to make do for longer with the weapons and vehicles they now have. Another potential source of equipment is the surplus ammunition and other resources essential for effective training. It is no good having the best men and the best weapons in the world if they cannot be consistently tested together in something close to combat conditions. It is possible also to make use of the surplus of fringe benefits which relieve the basic tedium of service life in peacetime, such as closed circuit television, adventure training, and sports facilities. Finally there could be further reductions in the ability readily to reinforce the British army in the Rhine at a time of crisis.

If these areas are where the

So there, I suggest, you have it. It is the intention to maintain the level of the British contribution to the alliance in the immediate sense of avoiding numerical reductions, there is no way of doing that without a corresponding increase in that contribution—as vital a matter in many ways as its actual size. So the government's assurance is not actually false. The error is not in the truth. It is just in the government statement, and amongst the officers and men of the armed forces it is being received with the weary scepticism reserved for such communications.

Times Newspapers Ltd. 1977

times had to shut temporarily, faced with increasing queues of patients and staff shortages. Even when they are all open and waiting lists are cleared London is not totally covered because there is no clinic be-

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with St Dunstan's as a consultant, keeping up his work on numerous scientific com-

from Rineersham to Burnhamway, West Cork. Indeed it is difficult to stop him enthusing over the blazing scarlets and brilliant copper greens that light this balmy place 20 miles from the

The Royce's sold their subur-

Daily Telegraph had him & that it was cheaper than go to Naples". The reader pointed out this charming preparation says she believed.

Drug clinic
What has gone
with the
other countries



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CASE FOR A HEALTH BOARD

Of the evidence to the Commission on the Health Service, brought to an initial task of gathering and opinions. At the time, another cut in NHS spending, quietly led last week in the White Paper on future expenditure, gave point to the fact that there can be no enabling the service and its way out of the morass. (It morale in us to decline and many difficulties are of a kind not ultimately be solved money.

that this is so, the problems of the NHS themselves into a matter of housekeeping—of better use of existing—as well as of creative hopes of a rapidly standard of provision that is agreed in the 1970s, health and in the social generally. Mr. Ennals's debate much attention seeking. The British Association's evidence commission, the most contribution of the bar, declines to accept litigation. Britain, it is a right to expect a far service, costing several millions more, and must therefore be to making that possible. ent circumstances Mr. approach is more realistic. It is disappointing of the BMA's 40,000 are addressed at all stically examining the able scope that exists for g health care more

Accepting that it is politically impossible to raise very much more money by direct taxation, the BMA proposes higher prescription charges and charges (with exemptions) for the "hotel costs" of hospital care. There is a good case for raising prescription charges, whose real value has fallen greatly in the years since they were last raised, and a rather less good one for hotel charges, which would fall heavily on patients whose earnings stop while they are sick and would involve much extra administrative work (it is significant that consultation charges, where the administrative work would fall partly on the doctors themselves, do not gain the BMA's support).

The BMA's main money-raising proposal, however, is an extension of the currently largely notional principle of national insurance for health. The service would be paid for out of a distinct fund, financed by higher contributions, and less subject to political tampering. It is rather optimistically hoped that pay deductions for a fund of this kind would be more acceptable to the public than straight-forward tax increases, and that in any future spending cuts the self-supporting health fund would not suffer. For a service whose share of total public expenditure has risen fast in recent years, partly because of political decisions, with expenses that commonly outstrip the general rate of inflation, the proposal would be likely to guarantee a stagnant supply of funds.

One of the purposes of such a plan would be to remove the financing of health care from political controversy. It is often associated with a proposal which the BMA (after much hesitation)

has wisely decided not to advocate—that of the independent health service board or commission. The vitality of the idea is shown by the fact that the Royal College of Physicians and the Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine have embraced it, as did the recent report by members of the McKinsey consultancy firm. The reasoning behind it traces the misfortunes of the service to the fact that it has a politician, the Secretary of State, at its head. Reconstitute the NHS as an independent body, and, as the Royal College put it, it would be "insulated" from political reversals of policy.

No public service that spends 6 per cent of Gross National Product, as the NHS does, can ever hope to be free of close governmental oversight. The nationalised industries, as the recent McIntosh enquiry showed, are anything but models of managerial independence. The content of major decisions in such bodies inherently carries a political charge, whatever the administrative structure. The provision of medical care commands so much fundamental public good will that the political factor works in favour of the service at least as often as the reverse. The medical profession in particular, with its ready direct access to the minister, enjoys a quite exceptional degree of influence under the present system, however difficult it may find that to believe after recent events. It is in more effective delivery of care and simplification of the command structure within the service that the answers to the NHS's financial difficulties are to be sought.

ENDING THE ARGENTINE ROAD

pects of peaceful y in Spain, which at the he year has begun to stively bright, have sadly in the past week, from Sunday to Friday le were short and ap- for political. As- ing student, it com- awyers, two security and a member of the ed. A tenth victim— a ted after being hit by a grenade during a ation. A senior General sped. The Government ed a shelve plans for a amnesty, to deal all rations, and reintegr- enera. Franco's ini- i law which gives the very road powers to nd detain suspects and their property without ion by the courts. accompaning wave of effected not only right wing extremists associa- groups but also mem- ence but also mem- ing parties and trade- igh have strongly con- t. Many leaders of such nd groups have gone ng, fearing further right- orist attacks. Some have ted that if the police le or unwilling to pro- they may be forced to supporters.

Understandably, many Spaniards are beginning to fear that their country is going the way of Argentina. A section of the Spanish extreme right is clearly modelling itself on the murder-gangs of the Argentine Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA), and one well-known Argentine right-winger was arrested last week for alleged involvement in one of the political killings. Spain, like Argentina in 1973, is attempting to return to democracy after a period of military rule. Unlike Argentina, however, Spain does not have to cope with two sizeable clandestine left-wing armies operating on her territory. It was the existence of these—the ERP and the Montoneros—which provoked, or at least gave a plausible pretext to, the growth of right-wing terrorism in Argentina. The Basque separatist ETA is not a threat on anything like the same scale. But the mysterious GRAPO seems to be trying very hard to fill the bill. There are in fact growing suspicions, even within the Spanish Government, that GRAPO is either composed of or manipulated by an extraordinarily cold-blooded group of right-wing agents provocateurs. Whether or not this "left-wing" terrorism is genuine, what is important is that the determination of the Government and

the security forces to defeat all terrorism, of whatever political colour, should be absolutely beyond doubt. The police must not be allowed to fall into the trap of thinking that, because one group of terrorists chooses victims among the police, therefore the self-appointed "counter-terrorists" are in some sense the police's allies. The essential feature in the degeneration of the Argentine body politic was precisely the blatant collusion, if not identity, between the official security police and the unofficial right-wing terror gangs.

In Spain under Franco and even after his death there was evidence of similar police connivance at and participation in the activities of the right-wing "Warriors of Christ the King". In recent months the police have begun to act more seriously against right-wing violence. But last week there were disquieting signs that the restoration to them of the anti-terrorist powers given them by Franco, combined with their understandable fury at the cold-blooded murder of their colleagues, might encourage them to revert to their old bad habits. It is this that the Government must avoid if it is to keep its promise not to be deflected from the path to democracy.

Wood

ing one before other

le in Westminster politics is the obsession, as Mr. Michael Foot in great office may carry for long reputation, or the a popular left-wing hero against his unwilling turn Trimmer. Only one more envied parliament- sketches by his beloved ould do justice to the a politician brought low n, made weak by the gift reduced to arguing a brief against all his past.

seems only the day before that he was the full man. And that the full man, as he was, would be so under torture and. Let a government—any t—deny the sovereignty ommons and that frail, re would rise below the ash the minutes with a ined on Swift, and to lash into a strident passion we have not heard since even died.

paration. No speaking library of reference books to eke out his argument er and verse. Parliament, justice had been put at or affront, and that of ight the words tumbling ages of amiable mockery ned syrup, or in over- cataracts of scorn and. Some nobler themes of igh the minutes with a ined on Swift, and to lash into a strident passion we have not heard since even died.

dent of the Council and Leader of the House. Sharing in the collective responsibility of the Commons, re- quired to compromise here, and make concessions there, every day preoccupied in calculating where votes to sustain the Government are to come from, nicely timing the moment when he will vote on the Commons under a bill on the Scotland and Wales Bill, knowing that the House waits with rich quotations from his own speeches to illustrate that constitutional Bills cannot be jerry-rigged through to the statute book without peril to Parliament and people.

Nearly a third of the period allotted for a formal debate of the devolution Bill has now passed, and Mr. Foot has to show for his labours only two of 115 clauses, one schedule and one amendment on the separate representation of the Highlands in the Edinburgh Assembly. He has had no choice except to try to enforce a timetable motion that will leave most of the Bill undebated in the Commons; and he knows that up to the last minute he may not be sure that the motion will carry. Nor, if it does carry, may he be sure that the House of Lords, already threatened by the Labour national executive committee with extinction, will not say it has a duty to supply the deficiencies of the Commons, particularly on a constitutional Bill, and go to slaughter like the lion rather than at it did the Bill last session to nationalise the aircraft, shipbuilding and ship repairing industries.

Parliamentarian that he was, Mr. Foot is not reckoned to have made a tentative Leader of the House. Traditionally, in that role he should temperately with Opposition parties, and on occasion protect backbench interests against executive interests. Behind the scenes he has apparently exercised much of his natural charm and humour, but he persistently sees himself as a business manager who puts party first, and he has given the impression, both as Employment Secretary and now as Lord President, that he is more concerned to appease the TUC than to satisfy the needs of the House.

Charm is not enough in a Leader of the House. He must also be willing to bend a little before the winds that blow in the chamber, the corridors and the smoke-filled rooms. He must, if he is to get the best bargain, build a reputation for plain dealing. And there are no

signs that Mr. Foot has yet managed to surmount the hurdle of giving him, or the Government, any benefit on a devolution Bill that has very few deeply committed friends anywhere in the Commons.

Very soon, there will be a fundamental test of Mr. Foot's managerial skills. The Conservative Opposition has tabled an amendment that drives to the heart of an anomaly exposing how crudely the Bill was conceived and drafted. It asks that before the Bill comes into force a Speaker's Conference (it could require no legislation) ought to pronounce on how many Scottish and Welsh MPs should sit at Westminster, once important powers have been transferred to Edinburgh and Cardiff, and what voting rights the residual Scottish and Welsh MPs should continue to exercise in the Commons on purely English questions.

Nothing could be fairer. Academics and commentators have for years been pointing out that, on top of the proposed Assemblies, Scotland and Wales are already over-represented in the Commons. On electoral quotas Scotland's seats should be reduced from 71 to 57 or 51, and Welsh seats from 36 to 31. Even then, there would be no equality if Scottish and Welsh MPs, in reduced numbers, could vote on specifically English subjects that Edinburgh and Cardiff can settle for themselves.

Yet the Government has made no attempt so far to resolve the anomaly. No wonder. It means that some Scottish and Welsh MPs, on whose votes it now relies to carry the Bill, will be asked to vote for the extinction of their own seats. It means that several recent governments could not have guaranteed a majority to carry English legislation, because their effective majorities lay in Scotland and Wales. It means that some method would have to be found to distinguish with certainty between those parliamentary Bills affecting only England, although it might happen that some Scottish and Welsh Assembly Bills would have an indirect impact.

In the old days, I suspect, Mr. Foot, whether sitting for English Devolution, or Welsh Ebbw Vale, would have made cause once again with Mr. Enoch Powell to be the scourge of any government that so sloppily thought out a constitutional Bill. What will he do now? Ask for a guillotine to muzzle debate, or announce that he agrees to a Speaker's conference?

Generation mix on council estates

From The Reverend Hubert Simes
Sir, We are constantly being told that in a few years' time, fewer young people will be available to look after an ageing population.

The members of our parish council have been concerned for a very long time that in Rockingham, where we have very large council estates, the population is a uniformly ageing one. This follows from the fact that when they were built, they were filled with young families—families which have now grown old together. On one estate, opened between the wars, there are now very many old people because, as their families have grown up and married, they have had to move away.

Our council has tried many times to get the policy of the GLC changed to allow at least a small percentage of housing to be let to young families who have been living on the estates. This would allow a natural community to develop, rather than artificially creating a one generation community.

We fully appreciate that this problem is difficult for housing authorities facing council housing. But we also feel that the Doverhouse estate is among the oldest in the country, and that the difficulties now being faced there may be a precursor of similar problems soon to be faced by other estates all over the country. Certainly it is likely to throw an increasing burden on the social services—which might be alleviated if ageing parents were able to call on the services of a son or daughter living nearby.

Through your columns may I request your plea to the housing authorities to reconsider this wasteful policy?

Yours faithfully,
HUBERT SIMES,
Parish Priest,
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic
213 Rockingham Lane, SW15,
January 25.

Race relations

From the Chairman-designate, Commission for Racial Equality
Sir, In poking fun (rather inaccurately) at my home address in his column today (January 29), Mr. George Hutchinson has missed the point.

I was not claiming to know the immigrant communities better than Mr. Enoch Powell. My invitation to him was to join me in meeting some of the many men and women of various races and colours who are doing practical work for tolerance and understanding, not talking about it. I suggested that he might try to do this by visiting Notting Hill because I am familiar with it after living nearby for over 20 years, but other places in London and elsewhere which I have visited would be equally suitable.

Our gratitude—and greater publicity, as Women in Media argue in their welcome letter to you today. Praise the group of Londoners, for example, gathered at County Hall this week, including the chairman of the two bodies which the new Commission for Racial Equality is to succeed, Mr. Mark Bonham Carter and Sir Geoffrey Wilson, who have borne so much heat and burden. On Thursday I also met a similar cross-section in Derby, where the real world problems, such as language, are being energetically tackled.

No one should underestimate these problems or the tensions and anxieties felt by people white, black and brown, particularly in parts of the large conurbations. Fortunately the majority of the population are rejecting Mr. Powell's gloomy extravaganza and are determined that Britain shall be a fair and peaceful society.

May I repeat another invitation which I put to Mr. Powell in *House of Commons* debate last March? On this great human issue will he not, even now, turn his mind to constructive and relevant thinking and use his eloquence to unite, not divide?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LANE, Chairman-designate,
Commission for Racial Equality,
40 Chestow Place, W2,
January 29.

The new 'Express'

From the Managing Director of the Daily Express
Sir, Mr. Dobson inquires (January 28) why I claimed 600,000 new readers for the *Daily Express* on Monday, the first day of the relaunch, and in particular why I claimed that younger age group made up a large part of the new readership.

I am glad to tell Mr. Dobson that after four days of publication, it is clear that the figure of 600,000 new readers was a serious under-estimate. Early on figures on reports from more than 100 circulation representatives making special checks at some 450 retail outlets throughout the country, it is our objective assessment that despite the 1p increase in price, an increase in net sale of at least 400,000 has been secured. Since each copy is read on average by 2.8 readers, this produces an increase in readership of 1,120,000, or 15 per cent on our April-September readership figure. We are well aware that the ultimate figure will settle down below this fourth day figure, but I think even your correspondent, a self-confessed "rather jaded sceptic", must be impressed by the very strong start we have made.

As for younger readers, we have commissioned a special independent survey of readership in the London area this week. The preliminary results have been very encouraging, and tend to reinforce our circulation department's view that there is a good proportion of young readers among the million extra.

The results of the survey, when completed and properly analysed, will be made available to advertising agencies and I will be glad to send Mr. Dobson a copy. Yours truly,
CHARLES WINTOUR,
Managing Director,
Daily Express,
121 Kingsway, EC4,
January 29.

Worker directors in industry

From Mr. Bruce M. Cooper

Sir, As one who has spent many years running both shop stewards' and joint management/union courses, I am disturbed at some of the recommendations of the Bullock committee.

It has been my experience that whilst there is a considerable demand for greater involvement in how decisions are made, it has not been in such matters as pricing policy, backward or forward integration, investment analysis or research allocation, which are those made at board level, but rather in matters which most directly affect the work force, such as consultation over plant shutdown (rather than the fact accomplish), recruitment policies, adequate provision for retraining, or, on occasions, which equipment to buy.

The impression of the report is that it is essentially a political rather than economic or social document. The trade union movement's experience of democracy within its own institutions, with 5 per cent attendance at branch meetings and only slightly higher for the selection of national officers, hardly gives encouragement or confidence to the view that there is a vast thrust from the grass roots to occupy the commanding heights.

Alas, all too recently we have seen examples of how small well-organized cabals within the Labour movement have been able to make decisions contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of its members. Election to boards opens itself to just such manipulation of people whose major objective is to undermine and overthrow the mixed economy.

Finally, one wonders to what extent the Bullock committee learned from the establishment of the National Coal Board. One remembers the euphoria which accompanied its inauguration, with the expectation from the work force of a new deal. Membership of union officials on the various boards proved in the event to have made little difference to either industrial efficiency, which this country so desperately needs, or a sense of common ownership.

Yours, etc.
BRUCE M. COOPER, Dean,
Centre for Management and Continuing Education,
Ulster College,
The Northern Ireland Polytechnic,
Jordanstown,
Co. Antrim,
January 25.

From the President of the Association of Professional Scientists and Technologists

Sir, Both the representatives of employers and of the TUC on the Bullock Committee appear to have made the assumption that managerial and professional staff will automatically always align themselves with the employer, and do not, therefore, need separate representation on the proposed new boards of directors. The fact is that managers are neither employers' men nor followers of the policies of unions representing other grades. They are their own men.

They certainly identify themselves with the interests of their companies and wish to do all they can to promote the efficiency and prosperity of these, since this is the only way in which they—or any of the other employees in the firm—can hope to increase their rewards and standards of living. But they also have the expert knowledge and readiness to criticize the way in which their companies are being run.

Furthermore, in a highly technological society, it is the managerial and professional employees who are the chief creators of productive employment.

Canterbury and Rome

From the Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral

Sir, The fact that the first reactions to your leader of January 20 have been somewhat negative was not unpredictable but is none the less unfortunate. I dare to hope that Mr. Longley's analysis of the strains and pressures upon Anglicanism is accurate, nor to deny that his fears have real foundation. What should be clear is that in seeking unity with Canterbury, Rome is trying to resolve some of the outstanding questions and challenges of the Reformation, since the Anglican communion is a church profoundly marked by the sixteenth-century Reformation.

What needs to be made even clearer is that in seeking unity with Canterbury, the non-episcopal Churches have to deal with a Church that claims to stand clearly within the Catholic tradition and is being led increasingly to see the centre and focus of that tradition in a renewed see of Rome. The best and most far-seeing Free Churchmen will surely welcome this, for they too are committed to a vision of Christian unity that is neither confined to this country nor to the Reformation tradition.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER GREENACRE,
4 Vicars' Close,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
January 25.

Ulster government

From Mr. A. S. Worrall

Sir, May I add one point to Sir Patrick Macrory's authoritative argument (Letters, January 21) for a "Combined Councils Council" in Northern Ireland? Such a body, urgently necessary for all the reasons he gives, would afford our politicians the opportunity to work together on practical issues without prior commitment to any particular constitutional scheme. The experience might lead to greater understanding and to the degree of mutual confidence necessary for agreed constitutional proposals. If it did not, the Council would still be necessary as an indispensable feature of long term direct rule. Yours faithfully,
A. S. WORRALL,
Chairman,
New Ulster Movement,
65 Antrim Road,
Newtownabbey,
Northern Ireland.

Teacher sacked for religious views

From Dr. Colin A. Russell

Sir, Your report of a dismissal from a Rickmansworth school is scarcely credible. A teacher of religious education has it seems, been given the sack for no worse an offence than believing and teaching the early chapters of Genesis as scientific fact. Apparently he declines to accept as binding the interpretation laid down by an "Agreed Syllabus". In an age of general conformity one's instinctive reaction is to raise three cheeks for anyone who cocks a snook at so intolerant an establishment. Knowing something of general attitudes to the so-called "Agreed Syllabus", I suspect that Mr. Watson's real misdemeanour was not that he failed to play by the book, but that he was honest enough to say so.

It is not for me to comment on the internal politics that could lead to such draconian and inhumane retribution. But I should like to make two points from history. First, the tradition represented by Mr. Watson does have a very respectable ancestry, and is even today nothing like as intellectually d's-reputable as such intolerance might suggest. Secondly, the incident may well show a strong similarity to the notorious Scopes affair of the 1920s, in which the anti-evolutionists pushed their case (and their luck) to the very limit. In that event the martyr was a teacher of evolution.

I have never met Mr. Watson and I happen to believe that his views are misconceived and simplistic (the might well say the same about mine). But they are not more simplistic than the least dangerous of the rapid outpourings of those who would elevate a vague concept of "evolution" into the ultimate explanation of life and history—one that renders all other explanations unnecessary and turns all crises into security risks for our children.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN A. RUSSELL,
The Open University,
Walton Hall,
Milton Keynes,
Berkshire,
January 24.

Banquo's norm

From Dr. Michael Young

Sir, I was indeed pleased to have your first leader devoted to my proposals for Phase 3, and glad to have your leader's support for the idea that, if we are to have a new norm for incomes, nil is the best number for it.

But I fear your readers may have been somewhat misled about my proposals. Nowhere in your paper did you describe them. A nil norm for pay increases was only a part of a number of inter-dependent points. The whole of my proposal—which I circled in the NEDC as a member, in my personal capacity of that body—was:

A nil norm, because pay rises are inflationary.

Cut taxes, to raise purchasing power without pushing up prices, and to cut the vicious margins of cost of tax at both ends of the income scale—in particular to help people escape the poverty trap.

Cut unemployment; reducing taxes should help by increasing demand. Less unemployment would further increase purchasing power and would improve the Government's finances.

Lower EEC food prices. The Government should see that dairy product prices are cut in the initial Spring Price Review and prices for cereals, beef and sugar frozen. Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL YOUNG,
Chairman, National Consumer Council,
22 Southwood Lane, N6,
January 27.

From Mr. Michael Barnes

Sir, As a member of the National Consumer Council, I would like to correct the impression given in your leading article today (Banquo's norm—January 26) that Dr. Michael Young's proposal for a nil norm in the next round of pay restraint is a proposal that has the backing of the National Consumer Council.

At a meeting on January 10 we specifically declined to give Dr. Young's statement our official backing and it was agreed that he should submit the statement in his personal capacity to the National Economic Development Council and not on our behalf.

The proposal for a nil norm has not been discussed by us with other consumer organizations and it would have been quite wrong for us to have underwritten it in the way you suggest in your leading article. We are out first carrying out widespread consultation within the consumer movement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BARNES,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 26.

Tax allowances

From Mrs. Conrad Voss-Bark

Sir, I own a business and employ 30 people and I have to be enormously careful not to discriminate between men and women. This morning I hear from the tax man that the tax allowances for my two children automatically go to my husband, who is not their father and does not support them.

Discrimination? Yours faithfully,
ANNE VOSS-BARK,
Lyd Cottage,
Leat Road,
Lifton,
Devon,
January 22.

Banning the box

From the Reverend R. A. Spalding

Sir, If I were to suggest that—in the interests of economy, quietness, encouragement of individual initiative and promotion of family life—all television broadcasting be banned for one day each week, would I be a lone voice? Yours faithfully,
R. A. SPALDING,
The Vicarage,
Babraham,
Cambridge.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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ddy meeting will unveil nitehall strategy on aid five industrial sectors

Mr Healey, the Chancellor, will be holding a working dinner with other ministers and members of industrial strategy teams on the eve of the National Economic Development Council meeting.

It is the Treasury's belief that the whole exercise of involving manufacturing sectors in joint planning has now gone well beyond the stage of being a paper chase.

What are regarded as well-drilled teams of businessmen, union leaders, civil servants, and others have not only produced ambitious targets for export growth and countering import penetration but also listed various priorities for the forthcoming Budget to back up their efforts.

The Government has set up and taken notice of what strategy teams think they can realistically aim for. What matters now is that the NEDC council gives approval for 1977 to be followed by a practical follow-up action.

The Chancellor wants now to link the industrial strategy work closely with his budgetary preparations. As one Whitehall source explained: "The working parties carry out now, and the sooner the message gets through to industry, the better. The NEDC Council should be able to do this."

It may be that the Government is ready to make some pre-Budget pledges on certain corporate and personal tax incentives, evidence of good faith in backing the strategy teams.

For their part the teams have separately pointed to various issues from problems of export finance and interest rates to creation of risk-sharing export ventures in the European market—where the Government can give a useful response, or introduce policy changes.

Changes to competition policy to allow more joint working by companies are thought to be under discussion, perhaps part of a package for counter-attacking in the European Community.

There is a certain nervousness surrounding how much can be disclosed of the actual ideas for raising market shares, for the strategy has now clearly developed to a point where consideration of commercial confidentiality, and not telling competitors abroad too much, may limit what can be published, or withheld.

It is known that the Prime Minister has had what are described as "serious discussions" very recently with members of the National Enterprise Board, so it may be its role will be more active as far as strategy work is concerned.

MPs are known to want more information about the developing Government-industry relationship, but whether the recent suggestion that the NEDC Council should relate its work to a parliamentary Select Committee has fallen on fertile ground remains to be seen.

Certainly the Chancellor is examining how a bipartisan involvement of MPs in tax and incomes policy matters might be achieved.

Halewood strike goes on as peace talks fail

Ford Motors' unofficial strike at its Halewood plant near Liverpool, which has made nearly 10,000 idle and caused production losses amounting to £11m, will continue into its second week. Joint talks between management and the transport workers' union ended in deadlock after six hours at the end of last night.

The joint shop stewards' committee from the body plant rejected an amended agreement offered by the management, but said they would put it before a full meeting of the 43 shop stewards in Transport House at Liverpool this morning.

A Ford spokesman said as the talks broke up that prospects for a resumption now seemed "bleak" and gave warning that because of the danger of supply of car bodies from Halewood other Ford plants could be affected "in the near future" if the men decided to stay out.

The management's amended agreement enabled all employees to return to work, but it was not clear if any appeal against a discipline decision, he said. It also allowed a hold-up on discipline, such as suspension or dismissal, while an extended time limit was given to lodge an appeal.

The stewards nevertheless felt this did not go far enough. They wanted it laid down that a man who had been disciplined and appealed would not be disciplined again if he committed the same offence while awaiting the hearing.

The spokesman said that this was going too far and the management could not possibly accept it. One reason against it was because it would be unfair to the rest of Ford's employees at Halewood.

More references on way for Price Commission as workload declines

By Ronald Emler

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, is expected to make several references to the Price Commission soon for special scrutiny.

He has made known on several occasions his desire to see this side of the commission's role more fully utilized, yet its eight investigating teams are rapidly running out of work.

At present there are eight references outstanding, but in its quarterly report published last week the commission stated that six were "well advanced" and publication would be within a few months.

Most investigations have been concluded on funeral charges; intruder alarm systems; hearing aids; garage call-out charges; soft drinks sold in pubs; and the system of manufacturers' recommended retail prices.

Recently Mr Hattersley requested investigation of school uniforms costs and coffee prices.

While the commission has a continuing brief to report on the changes in the cost of living, it has not yet been asked to look at sugar, but the conclusions have not yet been released; this is insufficient to maintain the programmed workload.

A further reason for Mr Hattersley's making several new references in the future is that the Commission will cease to exist at the end of July when the present price code legislation lapses.

It is widely expected that whatever body succeeds the Commission it will be given a similar investigatory role, but as it takes five to six months on the average to complete a report, Mr Hattersley could maintain its workload by making new references and yet have most investigations completed by the time the new body comes into being.

It is known that he is considering several subjects for reference, but that inter-departmental disputes are hampering progress. The Secretary of State originally wanted to refer beer prices, but ran into successful objections from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Similarly, timber prices will not be referred after once having been high on Mr Hattersley's list.

It is widely expected that he will make a reference on paint prices, and some sources are suggesting that one of the new references might concern garage servicing charges—on which the Consumers' Association recently issued a scathing report.

He might also refer the pricing of bread to the Commission as a result of continuing struggle over discounts and minimum prices. He would prefer bakers, unions, retailers and consumer bodies to set up a working party to thrash out a settlement within a month, but both consumers and retailers are reluctant to be party to such talks.

Mr Hattersley could dampen the controversy by asking the Commission to undertake a descriptive investigation into bread pricing and distribution similar to that on coal, published a year ago.

The Monopolies Commission is already investigating the bread industry but will not be reporting for a considerable period. The Price Commission could report relatively quickly, especially as it has surveyed bread prices in Northern Ireland and already has much confidential information from companies' quarterly returns.

After the Price Code, page 17

Separatist boggy haunts business in Montreal

Slowly and quietly a number of leading businessmen in Montreal are consulting lawyers and accountants and preparing contingency plans for the possible transfer of their business assets out of the province of Quebec.

They refuse to discuss their plans publicly and indeed are discussing with one of their most trusted associates the possibility of transferring operations to Toronto.

They fear that to much open publicity may strengthen public support for the separatist movement and prompt the new provincial government into swift action, possibly including expropriation measures.

Last week M René Levesque, the new premier of Quebec Province, told businessmen in New York that his government did not envisage direct take-overs or nationalization of companies, except possibly those involved in the mining and processing of asbestos.

His Parti Québécois welcomed foreign enterprises, so long as they respected the majority language, French, and the province's culture.

M Levesque suggested that the independence of Quebec from Canada was almost inevitable and declared that his government would hold a referendum on the issue within the next five years.

Businessmen in Montreal take M Levesque seriously. They fear that a call to independence will make their lives more difficult, especially as many of them control operations that are deeply involved throughout Canada.

The demands on businessmen to make French their prime language, even though a large number are primarily English speakers, have been quickly accepted over the years, but with considerable reluctance.

They have increasingly concluded that it is easier and perhaps even less costly, to run nationwide enterprises from Toronto rather than from Montreal.

A number of them are convinced that a strengthening of the separatist movement would tend to isolate Quebec from the Canadian national as well as the international business community.

It is still too early to state with confidence whether many of the Montreal businessmen will in fact go ahead with the plans they are now developing. There are a few alarmists within the city's business community, but for the most part there are still hopes that Quebec will in time turn towards acceptance of the idea that it is in its own best economic interest to play a major role within Canada rather than move away from its neighbouring provinces.

Fears are sufficiently genuine and widespread, however, to have forced a great number of Montreal businessmen to take the view that the only prudent and sensible course would be to prepare for an eventual move out of Quebec to safeguard their interests.

Frank Vogl

lan to small tor

Financial Staff

Exchange Council to agree to a scheme of small investors, when a discussion of the proposed Talisman system on February 15th for the Stock said that out of a great charging structure to be considered as many will be based on an added sum regain value.

For firms, or rather institutional clients, called upon to subsidize of smaller transactions at the reaction of firms, but even the a consensus of the protect the crucial of the small investors over the likely cost of the recent increase exchange dealings.

Exchange spokesmen said that the institution is not a happy with the charge rose to the value of institutions, even the biggest private investors."

Ford denies sending Leyland work abroad

By Kenneth Owen

Leyland Cars confirmed yesterday that the company had contracted with Ford—a major competitor—for toolmaking work, but denied that it was being done abroad. Ford also denied a report that they had subcontracted the Leyland work to Germany. A spokesman said: "The only tooling work we have for Leyland is being done at Dagenham."

Neither company would comment on the value of the work, or on the type of Leyland work the work was on. An improved Jaguar/Daimler model and would be worth about £1m.

Mr Gerry Eastwood, general secretary of the Association of Toolmakers and Allied Craftsman, said he had asked Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, for a meeting to discuss the work being placed with Ford. This has been arranged for next Monday. Until it takes place, Leyland is declining to comment.

Both Leyland and Ford, however, make the point that the toolmaking workload in the motor industry can be so variable that to contract out work in this manner, even to a specialist toolmaker, is not unusual. Under capacity in one company can coincide with over-capacity in another.

Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr, Birmingham, said yesterday that Leyland was planning to place one million hours of tooling work abroad because the company did not have the capacity to do it.

He claimed that the excess work could be done by 25 toolmakers in Britain over the next four years. Mr Rooker said the

intended to bring this to the notice of the National Enterprise Board this week.

Leyland was involved in 12 new major projects over the next four years, he claimed, and the million hours of toolmaking was an excess which the company could not handle.

"There are only two ways out of this problem, either expand Leyland's toolmaking capacity, or develop Britain's ability to do the work."

"I don't blame Leyland for this. We had a lack of investment in the 1960s, and since then wage differentials have been eroded. Now we have skilled toolmakers who are earning more by driving taxis. Despite the economic climate the work is obviously there to be done."

In a dossier of evidence which Mr Rooker intends to show to the National Enterprise Board, he claims that Japanese toolmakers are working on duplicate hand tools for the new Rover 3500 to be built in South Africa. Development work on a new range of Jaguar cars was to be done in Germany by Ford.

Alpine engines: Chrysler UK announced yesterday that engines for the Alpine, previously assembled in France, are now being assembled and tested in the Chrysler plant at Stoke, Coventry.

Mr George Loe, managing director and chief executive officer of Chrysler UK, said that this substantially increased the company's participation in the Alpine programme. "Our next major move will be to manufacture a number of the components for the engine at Stoke."

Complicated pay talks under way

Continued from page 1

Yet this year's discussions proved to be more complicated than previous ones. The Government has to find ways of raising the money for any tax reductions without increasing the Budget deficit and thereby breaking promises made to the International Monetary Fund last December when Britain was seeking its \$3,900m loan.

The two principal possibilities are a rise in VAT and an end to the automatic rise in supplementary benefits which keeps them abreast of inflation.

Such a move would be contrary to the Chancellor's belief that wage earners should not carry the full burden of the decline in living standards. He is also keen to relieve the tax burden of the lowest paid and highest paid employees.

But such methods of raising money are unlikely to appeal strongly to many trade union leaders.

Another difficulty is how to deal with the erosion of differentials that has taken place under these conditions. Some unions, for a full consolidation of the 56 and the 41 per cent pay increases of the last two pay rounds.

On the trade union side, Mr Murray, general secretary of the TUC, has made it clear that there can be no deal unless the Government acts to hold down prices and unemployment, and pressure for some reflection of the economy is mounting.

BSC may defer price rises due next April

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Deferment of price rises for the British Steel Corporation to next April is being planned for the next financial year, which begins in April.

Important customers of the state steel undertaking have been preparing themselves for a further round of increases early in the new financial year, which would mean the end of the six-month freeze on increases declared by the corporation last October.

Customers expected the BSC to press for increases of about 10 to 12 per cent on a wide range of products which were last increased in October and present about two thirds of its total output. But this possibility has receded as market conditions have worsened in the last two months.

If it attempted to increase prices again, the corporation would have little chance of selling its products at a profit in the marketplace.

Commercial executives of the BSC are understood to be planning a series of discussions with important customers over the next few days to assess the situation.

Constraints on its ability to lift prices at a time when costs are continuing to rise is a source of growing concern to the corporation which has already abandoned its target of breaking even financially in the current financial year.

A further loss is fore-shadowed if the corporation is forced to cut prices to meet the huge loss incurred in the previous financial year.

Worsening market conditions have prompted the corporation to take action to cut back production with the aim of reducing its overall by about 15,000 tonnes a week.

The cutbacks are now beginning to be felt throughout the corporation—the Bilston works in Staffordshire will operate only three of its seven blast furnaces until March, although a fourth was originally scheduled to be brought on stream over the Christmas period.

Further rises in BSC's raw material costs are in prospect. Coal prices are expected to rise by about 15 per cent in the spring. This will lift its overall costs by some £60m in a full year on its average annual coal burn of some 13 million tons of coaling coal.

In the last round of general increases in 1976 the corporation pledged to freeze prices for a six-month period, although it carried the proviso that this undertaking could not be applied if there was an unexpectedly large increase in raw material costs in the intervening period.

But the BSC was obliged to put up the price on some stainless steel products at the beginning of this month as a consequence of dearer nickel imports.

Private sector steelmakers, and to a lesser extent the BSC, are increasingly worried about the scale of cheap steel products from abroad which are moving in on the United Kingdom market. In the case of light section imports from Japan, South Africa and Spain, it is alleged that they are undercutting British prices by between £20 and £40 a tonne.

The British Independent Steel Producers Association has asked the Government to impose an anti-dumping duty on these imports.

White Child granted extension to NEB offer

By Ronald Pullen

To keep its options open as well as to provide shareholders in White Child & Bener with more time to consider the takeover bid from Arthur Guinness, the National Enterprise Board's offer to provide the plastics and materials handling group with £1.1m in return for a 24 per cent stake has been extended for two weeks.

The first closing date for the Guinness offer is February 14 and the meeting of White Child shareholders to approve the NEB proposal had been called for February 28.

It has now been agreed by NEB to extend its offer until March 14 so that White Child will be sending details of the meeting as soon as possible after February 14, provided a majority of White Child shareholders has rejected the Guinness approach.

Underlining its determination, the NEB also said over the weekend that it will "consider any further adjustments" to the agreement in the light of what happens after February 14.

Mr Richard Bener, chairman of White Child, also reiterated his view that the NEB's proposal was the only practicable source of funds at the moment and stressed that the NEB was not seeking any more active role in the management of the company.

He again advises shareholders to do nothing about the Guinness bid until they receive further details from the company this week on its reasons for resisting the unwelcome takeover.

UK gap

ments seen

on Jan 28—Experts at States Department forecast that Brinice of payments in 1978 will show a reduced about £1,000m, compared with £2,000m last

NUM seeks 'buying' inquiry

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, will this week be considering a request by the National Union of Mineworkers for a full inquiry, perhaps by a judge, into possible irregularities in Coal Board purchasing.

It concerns the £430m-plus a year the board spends on materials and equipment.

Mr Len Clarke, chairman of Nottingham miners and a member of the NUM executive, said over the weekend: "It is a public industry and there should be no shadow of scandal or improper activities."

Mr Clarke said he had no evidence or suspicions of any irregularities in his area, but the NUM felt that suspicions in some areas should be cleared up with Mr Lawrence Dale, general secretary of the NUM, had written asking for an inquiry.

Mr Dale had told the board the NUM would play a constructive part in any inquiry. A board spokesman said that Mr Dale's letter would be considered by Sir Derek and answered as quickly as possible.

Opec output up 12 pc last year

New York, Jan 30—After a modest decline in 1976, Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' crude oil production climbed 12 per cent in 1976 to 30.5 million barrels a day, mainly because of stockpiling in the United States, Petroleum Intelligence Weekly says.

However, the total still was 1.7 per cent below Opec's 1973 record and slightly over 1974.

Stockpiling demands pushed Opec's total December crude oil production to a monthly record of 34.4 million barrels a day, up 24.9 per cent from December 1975, when production sagged after Opec's October price increases.—AP-Dow Jones.

Worker director prospects at PO

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry is expected to call a meeting of the Post Office and the unions within the next week or so to discuss the issue of worker directors on the Post Office board.

A recommendation has now gone to the minister after a series of bipartite meetings between the Post Office and the unions over the past few months. This is understood to suggest a formula under which unions would get seats on the main board of the corporation.

The success of the corporation and the unions in reaching agreement in principle on a participation scheme is likely to be used by the Government as a model for other state industries.

They have already been told by Mr Doll, Secretary of State for Trade, that the Government wants to incorporate provision for state board participation in the legislation it intends to bring forward to implement the provisions of the Bullock report on industrial democracy.

On other pages

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Appointments vacant | 11 |
| Business appointments | 16 |
| Diary in Europe | 17 |
| Financial Editor | 17 |
| Financial News | 18, 19 |
| Letters | 16 |
| Management | 18 |
| Market reports | 19 |
| Unit Trust prices | 19 |
| Weekly share prices | 20 |
| Bank Base Rates Table | 19 |
| Company Notice: | |
| Bank of New South Wales | 18 |
| Prospectus: | |
| Kumagai Gumi Co Ltd | 18 |

Lending rate 12 1/2 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is lowered this week by 1/2 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender:

| | Applied | Allocated |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 3 months | £5,000m | £5,000m |
| 6 months | £5,000m | £5,000m |
| 12 months | £5,000m | £5,000m |
| Average rate | 12 1/2 pc | 12 1/2 pc |
| Next Friday | £5,000m | £5,000m |

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per Clyde sheds legacy of inefficiency

Faux

the deep anxiety over of British shipbuilders of hope is appearing per Clyde where the d Govan yards are shed a legacy of in- under investment- tive practice.

archibald Gilchrist, director, said the was pursuing a number of plans, which are expected to be placed at British in four months, for include a £130m order and for a range of or which competition and Scottoun have deters to last until mid-Mr Gilchrist said that must be won in the months to avoid a slump

in new levels of productivity and possible disruption of the £25m reconstruction which is changing the yards beyond recognition.

If Govan is able to secure part of the new work known to be available, the company will have a breathing space to consolidate working agreements signed recently with the yard's boilermakers, aimed at ending demarcation disputes, and with a new technical and working structure hoped to prove that the yards have a competitive future.

Productivity has already improved sharply as work has been shifted to the yard's investment in new equipment and the acute realization that only the most efficient yards are likely to survive the slump in shipbuilding.

When the company was taken by the Government in 1972 on the collapse of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, it took 850,000 man hours to build one of the most popular class of bulk carriers. A year ago flexible agreements were negotiated with the outfitting workers and the new production techniques began to show results. The same ship now takes 25 per cent less time to build and the target is 450,000 man hours. The building time for the same size of ship has been reduced from 40 to 26 weeks. The target is 18 weeks.

Building time is not so important as reducing the yard's man hours cost. Any yard will be doing well to deliver within two years of the order but the ability to build quickly means that a yard can delay the start and thus incorporate any design changes more easily", Mr Gilchrist said.

Govan is now building seven ships a year but could probably increase this to ten. The yard has three standard designs, two of which have sold well. Nineteen of the 23,300-ton general purpose cargo ships have been ordered by Kuwait Shipping and a further 21 are being built under licence in South Korea where six of the vessels are now under construction in one redundant shipyard.

Mr Gilchrist observed that Korea and Taiwan were likely to be severe competitors for future business and it was likely that "some European agreement would have to be worked out against them and the Japanese."

Taiwan-UK bus deal to be launched

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong, Jan 30

One of Nationalist China's largest manufacturing companies expects to launch a 10-year cooperative agreement to produce high-speed buses and trucks with Willbrook Co of Britain.

Tung Eng Iron Works, the Taiwan company, forecast today that 1,000 buses would be built in the first year, increasing to 8,600 by 1982, including 6,400 units for export, mainly to South-East Asian countries.

Production would include double-deck buses, trucks (nine to 12 tonnes), tractor trailers (14 to 16 tonnes), tip-carts, garbage trucks and fire engines.

Tung Eng Iron Works expected to earn \$40m (about £10m) by the end of the first decade of joint operation.

Increasing tourist traffic—a million visitors a year—and the increasing per capita income of Taiwan residents—give impetus to the deal and its export aims.

Key proposals under study to help contractors in overseas projects

Far-reaching proposals to improve the performance of contractors bidding for big overseas projects are being examined by Sir Henry Benson, adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England.

Proposals from more than 15 bodies covering the City, Government and industry have been submitted. The two key ones are for a City-based insurance scheme to provide better risk cover and for the creation of single contracting companies, each covering one industrial field, to bid for important overseas work.

Sir Henry Benson's report on the proposals is expected within two months and, if favourable, will lead to a working party being set up to seek agreement among the various institutions.

Overseas Project Group, the Government expert body, is anxious to see a City-based insurance scheme approved by the middle of this year. A confidential report from OFG in October 1975 started examination of "jumbo contracts" (projects worth \$5m and above).

The report said Britain had failed to win its fair share of the increasing world market for big projects. It estimated that the value of available important project business exceeded £6,000,000m and suggested that Britain's share should be between £3,000,000m and £4,000,000m.

Last week Mr Reginald Freeman, Minister of Housing and Construction, in outlining the first year's work of the construction exports advisory board, said: "A shortage of facilities for bonding and protection against contingent liabilities is thought to be a major obstacle facing major construction exporters."

The City-based insurance scheme which has the support of OFG is for all surety companies, insurance companies and banks to be grouped into three pools. The pools will be backed through reinsurance by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

One pool will consist of surety companies, the guarantors who would provide all the bond (a written contractual guarantee) required under the contract. This would cover bond arrangements between contractor and buyer and between main contractor and subcontractors.

The insurance pool would look after contingency risk. Thirdly, the banking pool would provide a standby line of credit to the surety pool to provide immediate funds for on-demand bonds or other contingencies. It would be reimbursed by the surety or insurance pools. High risks would be reinsured through ECGD.

A committee composed of underwriters from the surety companies, insurance companies, ECGD and bankers, would perform the bond underwriting.

Besides providing insurance cover when none previously existed, the scheme should make contractors' prices more competitive because contingencies would be insured through the insurance arrangements.

There is less unanimity of view about the other set of proposals regarding formation of Projects Limited (PL).

Tony Sutton

Business appointments Mr C Hogg Kaysor Bondor new chairman

Mr C. A. Hogg has been made a director and chairman of Kaysor Bondor. Dr G. B. Turner has left the board.

Mr D. A. Webb has gone on to the board of Mac Electronics. Mr W. D. H. Gregson and Dr T. L. Johnston have become non-executive members of the Scottish Telecommunications Board.

Mr Derek Kimber is to join the board of Equity Capital for Industry.

Mr Clement Piccolo is to become senior partner of Beenden, London, and when Mr A. C. M. Harding retires, Mr M. W. McCorkill has joined the board of Pauls & Whites as a director.

Mr T. D. Courlay has been made managing director of Europ Assistance.

Mr Paul Burton and Mr Terence McCracken have been made directors of Rockwell Pneumatic Scale.

Mr Brian Goldthorpe has become managing director of Midland Bank. Mr W. C. Barrett is to be corporate finance director (International).

The following have been named as members of the Insurance Law Review Committee: Mr Registrar Ritchie Penny, Mr Registrar John M. Bunter (Scotland), Mr Muir Hunter, Mr P. J. Millett, Mr E. L. Walker-Arnott, Mr A. Goldman, Mr P. G. H. Aris, Mr J. Taylor, Mr J. S. Copp, Mr G. Dring, Mr D. Macdonald, Mr B. P. Hall, Mr J. E. Forrester, Mr G. D. J. Bony, Mr D. W. Barrett, Mr L. R. Graham and Mr E. Milner have been made directors of United Gas Industries.

Mr R. Perkins, managing director of Ransomes and Rapier, has been elected president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Construction Equipment and Cranes.

Mr Roland Freeman has been appointed a director of the Cribb and Partners, and of Cribb Advertising.

Mr Norman W. Bayley has been appointed company secretary at Bambergs.

Mr M. J. Love, joins the board of Pettus & Finance and company secretary. Mr D. D. Reser becomes marketing director and Mr B. Harper, engine sales director.

Mr J. von Eichstorf has been appointed managing director of Securitas International Products. Also joining the board are Mr Philip-Seymour, Mr Keith Brown and Mr Bob Ritchie.

Sir Robert Norman is to retire in April as chief general manager of the New South Wales and will be succeeded by Mr R. J. White.

Mr Takeshi Watanabe is to retire as chairman of Trident International Finance and will be succeeded by Mr Li Fook Wo.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Damaging long-term effects of fall in construction activity

From Sir Hugh Wilson and others

Sir, The presidents of the main professional institutes concerned with the built environment write to express their profound anxiety about the effects on the construction industry of the recent cuts in public sector capital spending. These further cuts, leading as they must to the disbanding of experienced teams and the rundown of plant and other resources, will gravely weaken the ability of the building and civil engineering industries to meet the programmes likely to be demanded of them if the economy is to improve.

Perhaps even more serious because its effects will persist, is the loss of training opportunities for professional staff which only construction can provide.

Over the past 10 years, output of the industries and professions has never been as low as it is now. On present public expenditure forecasts and private expenditure trends, it is likely that output will drop by another 10 per cent in real

terms over the next two years. During 1978 it seems probable that the industry as a whole will be working at about 75 per cent of its maximum (1973) capacity with an operative employment level of around 20 per cent, or 300,000 men.

This would take the industry's output below the lowest levels postulated by the National Economic Development Office in its July 1976 publication *Construction in the early 1980s*. Such an unprecedented reduction would, in our view, endanger the industry's ability to support the training needed or even to retain staff to cope with future demand and jeopardize the Government's industrial strategy.

We can well understand that it may be an easy political choice to cut public capital expenditure. The construction industries and professions are fragmented and cannot adopt a militant stance against the loss of jobs, as some public service trade unions have done. But the danger is that the consequences are not therefore fully

understood and debated, that short-term political expediency may lead to serious long-term economic disadvantage. Yours faithfully,
HUGH WILSON,
Convenor, Presidents' Committee for the Urban Environment,
26 Charlotte Street, London, W1.
ALEC LOTEN,
President, Institution of Civil Engineers;
J. H. K. BOYNTON,
President, Royal Town Planning Institute;
C. H. CRAFT,
President, The Institute of Building Engineers;
W. EASTWOOD,
President, Institution of Structural Engineers;
C. P. FRANKLIN,
President, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors;
ALEX LLOYD,
President, Chartered Institute of Building Services;
ERIC LYONS,
President, Royal Institute of British Architects,
January 24.

Belfast plants take troubles in their stride

To a degree unappreciated by the outside world manufacturing industry around Belfast has taken eight years' violence in its stride. Terrorism is low on the list of problems which confront industrialists based here.

Energy costs way above the national norm, combining with high freight charges to reduce competitiveness, has hit the Kingdom and export markets labour shortages amid record unemployment; a proliferating bureaucracy as layers of Whitehall fat accrete on what was the relatively lean and compact Stormont; all service existing when direct rule was imposed five years ago: all these cause the Belfast manufacturer more sleepless nights than bombs and bullets. On the positive side, freight forwarders report a steady rise in shipments to Britain and overseas as trade revives.

Almost a year ago directors of 60 major British firms with Ulster plants spelled out to the then Secretary of State, Mr Reginald Freeman, the impact of Mr Orme's message stark and clear. High energy costs were destroying the profitability of Ulster industry and any chance of new investment from overseas, they said. The economic decline was rapid, in phase with the rise in oil prices.

Earlier, policy had been to keep Ulster's power costs in line with those in the south of Scotland. Now they are some 25 per cent above the British average, and gas costs three times as much. The problem derives from over dependence upon oil: 90 per

Industry in the regions

cent of generating plant here is oil-fired and all gas is derived from naphtha, the province having been denied any share in the national bonanza of North Sea gas.

A year later nothing has been done. In October the heavyweight Quigley report on the Ulster economy recommended a general 10 per cent cut in industry's power costs. The CBI hopes for more, and claims that action on energy costs is the first priority if the economic decline is to be reversed. The Government has given no hint of its attitude, save a recent remark from Mr Connaughton, Mr Orme's successor, that aid, if any, would be extended in a selective rather than blanket fashion.

To illustrate the problem as it confronts one local firm: a spinning plant just outside Belfast, a turnover of £31m last year, paid an electricity bill £77,000 higher than it would have been in Lancashire. Its main customers are knitting firms around Leicester, where freight charges account for 2½ per cent of its selling price. Earlier, policy had been to keep Ulster's power costs in line with those in the south of Scotland. Now they are some 25 per cent above the British average, and gas costs three times as much. The problem derives from over dependence upon oil: 90 per

orders run out in about twelve months' time, though it plans to tender for larger vessels among the 22 bulk carriers Poland aims to buy from Britain.

Meanwhile, working parties have been set up to speed up the shipyard's work. The yard's 13 divisions will meet to resolve differences among themselves over the procedures under which five working directors will be elected, hopefully by the autumn.

However, at levels below the board, the integration of workers with management in decision-making proceeds and the recent improvement in employee attitudes, a director claims, has been "tremendous". Both management and unions believe Bullock has overlooked the importance of worker participation at all levels in a firm, just across the boardroom table. It would be a pity if the experiment at H & W, where its importance is appreciated, should collapse through lack of work.

Finally, shed a tear for the best-kept Ulster secret, the delayed victim of last year's drought. French and Belgian flax, its staple staple, is now unobtainable, while Russia, once an important source, has reduced production in favour of grain and is buying up flax seed. As a result the price has soared.

In the longer term the industry is looking towards China as a possible source.

Robert Rodwell

Prescription for currency stability

From Professor D. R. Myddelton

Sir, I recently charted, on single-cycle log paper, the purchasing power of the pound since 1935. Starting with 1935 equals 100 at the top left, each succeeding year's purchasing power was placed lower and to the right, until in 1976 the pound's purchasing power disappeared off the bottom of the chart.

It is not a shattering indictment of Keynesian policies that the pound's purchasing power should have fallen by 90 per cent since 1935 (and has twice this since 1964). The Victorian economists at whom Mr Maundling sneers would not have been amused.

Mr Maundling did not justify his assertion that the monetarist remedy for inflation "will not work" in the modern world. But Keynesian policies are not even intended to

Taxation's role in helping the exporter

From Mr John Bradshaw

Sir, I must congratulate Anthony Cadman for his (January 11), and for his excellent letter deriding the "Wby U porters Won't Succeed".

His observations are both correct and timely, and in they highlight the absurdity of the concessions to export announced by the Chancellor December's mini-budget. I amount to a possible 9 per personal tax bonus under strict conditions, and go now to the tax authorities to see which has been fully used by most exporting countries many years.

It is essential that some of the more enlightened men of our Inland Revenue Department take a further long hard look at competitors' tax legislation, and in mind that a little way in sterling at home, bringing very large dividend the overseas currencies we so urgently need. The men have a part to play, actively encouraging rather than discouraging Britain's porters and could do much to help the export book. Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRADSHAW,
PO Box 2000,
Lusaka,
Zambia.

Gas and electricity pricing

From Mr Antony Worham

Sir, Countless numbers of homes are changing from electricity to gas at an enormous expense. Millions of pounds are spent to be able to use gas which is much cheaper than electricity. Both are State industries—why not let users of both pay the same price? Why

should those that are fortunate enough to have gas in their homes have bearing cheaper than those that only have electricity? Yours obediently,
ANTONY WORHAM,
Robert Denholm House,
Bletchingley Road,
Nutfield, Surrey
January 23.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 11

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

NON-SECRETARIAL

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Equities take their lead from gilts



Mr Ernest Harrison, chairman of the Rascal Electronics, long term benefits of Milgo bid.

of England may not at the way in which interest rates has d from its grasp—the result of trying to three irreconcilable simultaneously—but at least in a sensible way reducing a new tap Friday. dication would seem rather than continue tock at a market that have an unstable as better allow it to s current level of then launch a new w taps, in conditions i give a new stock ce of fulfilling its function. n that will occur is uest but at Friday's ogress in gilt prices r necessarily be very ap around a 13 per level for the long end ead. equities continue d happily along in of gilts, the mood of of a week or two ago o one of ride the —at least for the and albeit that the nern has alarming to January 1976. investors who now ntial profits under are unsettled by the t hot money in the ad fear a nasty down ay policy may well oling into a further

who believe that flexibility and good reveal—with perhaps relaxation on the rent too—should let s run. m ng bid

tying its bid for linearity last year, argued that buying a company with GA's and leadership for earning was not le. Since the same dship arguments venham itself, and stock market is, in rner now, Sir James Générale Occiden id it hard to justify Cavenham at only s historic or just e year to the end of using profits of over t £34.7m. So the 120p bid price can ewed as a sighing

tempting a foothold

Business Diary in Europe: Hello to Berlin • Space savers

Digital Data Systems which has made a counter-offer for Milgo. Though its paper offer of around \$29 a share against Rascal's \$26 cash offer does not have the Milgo board's backing, it looks as if Rascal will need to offer something more to clinch the matter.

Rascal's trump card here is that ADDS is too small to keep on offering more paper without depressing its own share price and thereby the value of its offer.

Rascal should have no trouble affording, say, \$33 a share, since it will still only be buying Milgo at 12 times earnings, not excessive by United States standards in the fashionable data communications sector. My feeling is that the establishment of a United States base is vital to Rascal's ambitions at the moment especially with regards to invoke the "Buy American" act to prevent the purchase of British military equipment.

With a £100m tender for single channel radio communications having just gone out in the United States, Rascal knows all about the prizes to be won which makes a few extra million for Milgo pale into insignificance.

Index funds Matching the market

Largely because of the difficulties of dealing in sizable amounts in the shares of small companies, the institutions now tend to concentrate their investments in the shares of a limited number of large companies.

The result has been a predictable concentration of research effort upon the profit and earnings prospects of those companies; and it is the contention of proponents of the index-matching theory that the market in such shares is efficient, and the price at any one point of time is more likely than not to be the "right" price given the existing state of knowledge.

With new knowledge the prices of such shares tend to move fast, reflecting the fact that the institutions, when they move, will move en masse.

How much chance has an individual fund manager, under these circumstances, of beating the market? Not much, if United States statistics are anything to go by: there, over a 10-year period, 87 per cent of funds have done less well than the Standard & Poor's Index.

By bending his mind, according to the index matchers, upon both greater and smaller things, the fund manager should, insofar as he requires equity market coverage, buy an "index fund"—a representative selection of shares; and that having bought them he should leave them to accumulate or depreciate with the market, while he concentrates on the overall balance of his portfolio and the opportunities available in the shares of smaller and less heavily researched companies.

Car radiator tussle is generating heat

United Kingdom radiator manufacturers are worried by reports that British Leyland is planning a multi-million pound investment to convert its big Leyland radiator plant to produce a new type of aluminium radiator developed by a French company.

They have complained that a decision to buy French expertise would be a serious setback to British radiator technology at a crucial time. Most of the world's car-makers are at present similar considering switch from copper to aluminium radiators.

The first new Leyland car to appear with a French-designed radiator could be the £200m Mini replacement due out in 1979. One British radiator manufacturer described the prospect as "a real slap in the face for us, particularly as Leyland is now subsidised by the British taxpayer".

Aluminium radiators of varying degrees of efficiency and reliability have been about for some years. They were fitted to Leyland's E-type Jaguar sports car for a short time. The main weakness was the complex process necessary to bond aluminium.

As the price of copper and brass—the traditional radiator materials—have continued to rise, cheap aluminium has come more into the reckoning.

However, it was Volkswagen's decision to switch to aluminium radiators for its very successful new range of water-cooled cars—Passat, Scirocco, Golf and Polo—which has sent international motor manufacturers back to their drawing boards.

If aluminium was good enough for Europe's biggest car maker it was worth serious consideration indeed.

The design chosen by Volkswagen was developed by Sofica France, a subsidiary of Perod. It overcomes the bonding weakness by a fairly simple system of pressings.

Volkswagen was impressed enough to build its first radiator factory—its previous range of cars were air-cooled—expressly to produce the new French design under licence. It is understood, however, that Sofica drove a hard bargain and insisted on supplying half of Volkswagen's radiator needs from its own French factories.

Rival designs have been developed by a British, French and German combination. Marston Radiators, an IML subsidiary, Chausson, the biggest French radiator manufacturer, and Behr, its opposite number in Germany, have been pooling research on aluminium radiators for the past five years.

Chausson is now manufacturing an aluminium unit for the Range Rover and Behr has won a contract for new Mercedes models. That leaves Marston as the only member of the so-called Club of Three without a single production order.

Mr Fenwick Allison, Marston's managing director, has been working hard to persuade Leyland that his automatic brazing process is the one they should settle for. However, according to reliable Leyland sources last night, Sofica are the present favourites.

But Mr Allison has another string to his bow. He said: "We have made very substantial advances with our non-aluminium radiator technology which we believe provide a serious challenge to the economics of aluminium radiators."

"We have developed a very high efficiency secondary surface which enables us to use a much thinner single-core instead of the conventional two or even three-bank systems."

"We are also going into production of a radiator fitted with a plastic header tank for a minor new United Kingdom car appearing later this year."

Clifford Webb

Price restraint: will the code be battered but unbroken?

Derek Harris

Today's system of statutory price restraint, born as a fully-fledged, formidably detailed piece of legislation in 1973 under Mr Edward Heath's Tory administration and subsequently elaborated to the point of obfuscation, could be in its dying months.

The legislation, which also underpins the life of the Price Commission, runs out at the end of July.

But those companies which have made much of grunting and sweating under the weary life of surveillance by Sir Arthur Cockfield, chairman of the Price Commission, and which may well have now mentally written off the code as being as good as dead, could be in for a surprise.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, looks like treading a difficult path in the next two months before the parliamentary time-table forces a final decision by Easter on the new shape of price restraint.

It could even end in the code being given a new lease of life by fresh legislation, and in a recognisable although probably more simplified form.

This is despite the fact that Mr Hattersley already made plain that he regards the present code as outdated and too rigid and would prefer to see an end of it in its present form.

The problem here could be mainly that of winning the approval of the TUC which necessarily sees price restraint as complementary to its continued support of the pay policy. From its point of view it is hard to escape the question why the code should be changed, unless it is to make it more effective.

Last week's quarterly report of the Price Commission, covering the September-to-November period of last year, for the first time gave some idea of what has been happening since relaxation of the code last August.

The commission had already given as its opinion that the relaxations were considerable and that in theory profits and profit margins could double, although market forces were expected to bring back that degree of escalation.

The commission was able to assess the effect of more generous investment relief but found the other relaxations not so easy to quantify. How much of the extra profitability from those relaxations would go to investment—the main interest of the TUC—the report could not say.

The changes have also invalidated for the time being the commission's monitoring of profit margins as a percentage of reference levels.

Sir Arthur pointed out that because of the changes the calculation of profits and margins for price control purposes was now highly artificial, bearing "little resemblance to profits as calculated on accepted accounting principles".

He added that the exclusion of exports and some other activities from control meant that profits as reported for price control purposes might be significantly less than total profits. "Indeed," he went on, "in some instances companies will be showing 'losses' for price control purposes while their published accounts will show substantial profits".

All this not only shows how far the code is from the reality, but also how badly in need of simplification it is if the system is to continue. It undoubtedly could strengthen trade union argument for a stricter system.

The TUC presumably would particularly want to see some concrete evidence that extra profitability is resulting in more investment, the sluggishness of which has lately been a particularly sore point with trade union leaders like Mr Jack Jones, even though, here and there, major investment plans have been emerging.

The difficulty for Mr Hattersley is that the various other scenarios for price restraint could run into implacable opposition from one or other of the various bodies involved, especially the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC.

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The difficulty for Mr Hattersley is that the various other scenarios for price restraint could run into implacable opposition from one or other of the various bodies involved, especially the Confederation of British Industry and the TUC.

This will not be clarified until formal consultations begin, but the informal contacts which have so far taken place do not seem to have generated too much warmth.

It could set the scene for a possible retention of the price code in something like its present form, unless Mr Hattersley is prepared to impose another preferred solution come what may.

It is not impossible that the CBI, after looking at other suggested methods of restraint that could involve random intervention by a government agency into the affairs of companies, might even be prepared to settle for a version of a code which is the devil they know, even though publicly the CBI is expected to demand an end once and for all to the present restraint machinery.

If the code were kept largely in its present form it would be necessary for it to be reassessed soon afterwards in the light of current cost accounting principles which would then be coming in.

There are a number of options for continuing price restraint. Apart from simply maintaining the present code, with policing from the Price Commission, the restraint procedures could be simplified in various ways.

One method would be to rely on an honour system, where companies would be expected to keep price increases in line with the scale of primary cost increases and the demands of investment. All companies would be expected to keep records which could be vetted if price increases put through seemed to merit it.

A variation of this would be for, say, the top 100 companies to submit price rises for scrutiny, probably on an

work in this field has already shown that there can be value in its approach in restraining profit margins, as with the rampon makers, or in promoting more competitive pricing, as with the scrapping of some recommended retail price systems.

It may be, of course, that the CBI and the Retail Consortium might feel that an over-enthusiastic use of intervention with a reference system might become capricious in its effects.

There is the problem within the Whitehall machine that the reference system means that in calling an investigation of a particular industrial sector, whether it be food or fasteners, Mr Hattersley has to carry with him the Whitehall department which sponsors that particular industry.

A number of possible references appear to have been either held up or abandoned because of this difficulty which can reflect valid problems such as the possibility of increasing unemployment in a sector if profit margins are reined back.

What is probably Mr Hattersley's preferred solution is the setting up of an agency with greater powers than the Price Commission, although such work as the reference investigations and the maintenance of company profit and investment records.

An idea of particular significance is for bodies like the TUC, the CBI, the Retail Consortium and other trade organisations to have regular contact, either direct or implicit, in the personalities chosen. The aim would appear to be to look not only at prices and profits but also questions of efficiency.

On the one hand that could mean seeing whether a company in a near-monopoly situation was exploiting the market by charging too-high prices. Equally it could question over-manning and similar problems so sensitive for the TUC.

With such a powerful agency in the armoury Mr Hattersley would be able to act more decisively than has so far been possible for any Prices Secretary. But to get it could mean a tough battle inside, as well as outside, Whitehall.

One way out of any inter-departmental bickering would be for the new body to be a completely independent authority. That could do much to counter possible objections that a new agency might be prompted to intervene on largely political grounds.

Undoubtedly one of the trickiest drafting problems for the consultative document, likely to be out during February, would be in defining the criteria which would effectively trigger an intervention on a price rise or a reference for investigation.

Mr Arthur Cockfield, chairman of the Price Commission, its work has demonstrated the value of "referring" companies and industries for investigation.

The TUC necessarily sees price control as complementary to its continued support for the pay policy. From its point of view it is hard to escape the question why the code needs to be changed, except to make it more effective.



Sir Arthur Cockfield, chairman of the Price Commission, its work has demonstrated the value of "referring" companies and industries for investigation.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
GOLDEN HOPE PLANTATIONS
LIMITED
REJECT THE TAKE-OVER
BID FROM GENTING

The directors of Golden Hope Plantations Limited announce that they were notified on 28th January, 1977 that Genting Highlands Hotel Berhad, Malaysia, intends to make a cash offer of 96p per share for all the shares of 10p each in Golden Hope, other than those shares (10.8 per cent) which it already owns. Genting's proposals envisage the payment by Golden Hope of the same special dividend as is already included under the recommended merger proposals of Harrisons Malaysian Estates Limited.

The directors of Golden Hope have considered the terms of the bid with their financial advisers, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, who are of the opinion that the bid substantially undervalues Golden Hope either as an independent company or as a participant in the proposed merger with The London Asiatic Rubber and Produce Company, Limited and The Pataling Rubber Estates, Limited.

Accordingly, the directors of Golden Hope advise shareholders to REJECT THE GENTING TAKE-OVER BID and continue strongly to recommend shareholders to ACCEPT THE OFFER BY HARRISONS MALAYSIAN ESTATES LIMITED for the purpose of effecting the merger of Golden Hope, London Asiatic and Pataling with a view to the subsequent transfer of residence of the three companies to Malaysia.

Shareholders are reminded that acceptances of the merger proposals must be lodged not later than 3 p.m. on Monday, 7th February, 1977.

The directors of Golden Hope Plantations Limited have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated in this circular are true and accurate and that no material facts have been omitted. All the directors of Golden Hope Plantations Limited jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



Hollowood "I see the ordering of two dozen German-English, English-German dictionaries as at least a step in the right direction."

Broken pledges There were few glasses raised to Brussels at the Scotch Whisky Association's annual information and development committee reception in London last week, the week of Burns night.

Grateful Stavros Roussos, the Greek Ambassador, has presented the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for more than two years have laid a discriminatory rate of VAT on Scotch.

award came three years late embarrassed him not at all: "Our administrative machinery is rather slow," he explained diplomatically.

He was able, in any case, to cite several good reasons for the award, such as the sacrifice of the Longhope lifeboat and its crew in the attempts to rescue the stricken Greek ship, the Irene, and several efforts of the Devon lifeboat to succour Greek vessels foundering in the straits.

The Greeks have the largest merchant fleet in the world and still make a disproportionately large contribution to the RNLI's modest income from overseas sources. They do not have a lifeboat service themselves, but say that if you should get into trouble in the Peloponnese the Greek coast guards should be adequately equipped to cope with the comparatively slight perils of the sea in their part of the world.

His memory jogged by a recent Business Diary article on the shortage of change in Italy and the consequent appearance of "emergency money" issued by banks and others, reader K. W. Elial has sent in a 150 lira (45p) note from Rome. "I have been puzzled about the odd denomination," he writes, "neither 100 nor 200, and without wishing to appear blasphemous wonder whether the reason is the inherent Trinitarian tendency to make it divisible by three." The note is after all from the Bank of the Holy Ghost (founded 1605).

Management

Edited by Rodney Cowton

How rights for consumers can mean headaches for producers

"Managing director of food company faces prison", by 1980, this headline could be over a story about someone killed by eating a sandwich or a can of soup. Both these commonplace foods have already killed: in 1963, two women died after eating tuna salad sandwiches; in another case, a banker died, and so nearly did his wife, after drinking canned Vichysoise soup.

So many manufacturers are concerned with economic survival, or the digestion of recent legislation like the Health and Safety at Work Act, that they have not yet seen the signs. But by the end of this decade, penalties for hurting a consumer with faulty goods could be a massive fine, running well into six figures—even imprisonment.

The most significant portent comes from Brussels in the form of the EEC second preliminary draft directive on product liability, which starts with the simple sentence: "The producer of an article shall be liable for damage caused by defect in the article."

On the face of it, this may not seem to be very serious, but then Article 6 says: "It shall not be a defence for the producer to prove that, when he put the article into circulation, he could not have known it was defective."

Article 7 follows with: "It shall not be a defence for the producer to prove that the defect was caused by the fault of a person employed by him."

The draft directive must be seen alongside our Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973, which in effect stops a manufacturer contracting out of his obligation to supply goods of a merchantable quality to a person for his private use or consumption.

Informed opinion believes that the EEC proposals are likely to become law, but in any case, tougher product liability regulations are certainly just round the corner. The Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Personal Injury, under Lord Pearson, will be reporting later this year on the provision of compensation for death or injury suffered through the manufacture, supply or use of goods or services.

The tide of aggressive consumerism is flowing more and more strongly, too, as the thalidomide case clearly demonstrated.

Present product liability insurance would give little protection in the future because of the narrow cover it provides. For instance, there can be a "reasonable precautions" provision, which points to the need for the incident to be foreseeable if the policy is to operate. Frequently, liability due to faulty design or formulation is specifically excluded.

There will be a limit on the amount that can be claimed for any one incident as well as a limit to the total indemnity during a given period.

To get an idea of what strict liability is going to mean we can learn from what happened in America after 1963, when the California Supreme Court decided that a manufacturer is strictly liable when he places an article on the market, knowing that it will be used without inspection, and it proves to have a defect that causes injury to a human being.

Less than 10 years later, the Consumer Product Safety Act had been passed, which established the Consumer Product Safety Commission with authority to impose a civil penalty of \$2,000 for each known violation and criminal penalties of up to \$50,000 and one year's imprisonment for each willful violation.

One effect over the last decade has been the growth of product liability claims by more than 1,000 per cent, with insurers losing \$2,500m since the commission was set up in 1972. One small manufacturer discovered that his premium for product liability cover rose from \$134 in 1974 to quotations of about \$40,000 only two years later.

The personal accountability of executives is illustrated by

one American company which is said to have designated a vice-president as "the one who will go to jail" should they run foul of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

The legal milestone was passed in 1975 when Mr John R. Park, president of Acme Stores Inc., was found personally responsible for rodent infestation in one of the company's warehouses in Baltimore. Chief Justice Warren Burger wrote the majority opinion of the Supreme Court on appeal: "The requirements of foresight and vigilance are no more stringent than the public has a right to expect of those who voluntarily assume positions of authority in business enterprises, whose services and products affect the health and well-being of the public that supports them."

During the first week of this year, the Los Angeles Federal Court ruled that the relatives of the families killed in the DC 10 crash near Paris in 1974 could claim punitive damages, and this after the relatives of one couple killed had already been awarded compensation of \$750,000 last year.

It can be seen that the 1980s will demand a different management style from that of the 1970s. To meet the situation likely to be created by the adoption of the EEC draft directive, manufacturers are going to need to do much more than merely extend their quality control. Every product carries with it some risk.

While product liability hazards can never be eliminated, they certainly can be reduced by the adoption of the right management techniques and appropriate organizational structure. Just as each manufacturer has a unique combination of products, plants and people, it follows that each manufacturer will have to develop his own unique answer to the reduction of his product risks.

Some large corporations, especially American multinationals, have established separate departments charged with the specific task of reducing product hazards, a few confining their independence by

forming a new company for the purpose.

For the small to medium manufacturer, this is impossible, and they may turn to the few innovative insurers and brokers in the City who have formed their own risk management companies or departments, where a specialist in the reduction of product liability hazards can be found.

Technical audit

The method is to use a definitive approach to product liability in the same way that the seemingly more tangible risks of fire and security are tackled. An essential element is an independent technical audit of the operations, which is carried out in a similar manner to the yearly audit of the books by an outside firm of accountants.

Unlike the situation with other risks, however, much experience in the industry concerned is a necessity if the definitive approach is to be effective. A marine engineer is unlikely to appreciate the nuances in the production of a ladies' cleansing milk with 39 ingredients.

Some companies are more vulnerable than others. Those making consumer products are the most exposed; these are the products the purchaser or his family consume or use directly—food, cosmetics, hair preparations, toiletries, household and drink secondaries, electrical appliances and so on.

The first national full-year figures from the Office of Fair Trading showed that more than 400,000 consumers made complaints about goods or services, with household appliances accounting for most complaints and food and drink secondaries. There were 2,885 prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act, with penalties totalling £169,137.

By 1980 these figures could look very different.

Howard Abbott

The author is a consultant with Abbotts Quill Ltd, which specializes in the reduction of product liability risks.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Dull prospects for clearing banks: doubts about property revival

Brokers' estimates of 1976 clearing bank profits due to be announced over the next two months cover an extremely broad range. But most analysts take a uniformly dim view of earnings prospects in the current year.

Even before Friday's surprise 1 per cent cut in M.R. Galloway Pearson and Moore Govett, for example, were advising clients to take advantage of the recent price strength in the sector to reduce holdings.

Pointing out that the outlook for profits is dull and interest rates trending lower and not making a recovery, the analysts predict that the long expected rights issue from Barclays will be at least £100m and should attract most funds appetite for stock.

Hoare Govett agrees that this factor alone should produce several dull months for bank shares.

As for 1976 results, Galloway expects £202.8m from Barclays, £144.3m from Lloyds, £130.5m from Midland and £177.9m from National Westminster.

Barclays' profits are expected to be higher than the London clearing bank's, with the exception of Midland from which it expects a figure of £145.5m pre-tax. Its other forecasts are Barclays' £216m, Lloyds £147.5m and National Westminster £184.2m.

Even more optimistic however is Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin which suggests Barclays has increased profits by 82 per cent to £239m thanks to the maintenance of high base rates until the end of the year. The same firm puts £145m from Lloyds, £135m from Midland and £207m from NatWest.

Contrary to current view, gloom for the home banks.

Brokers' views

Galloway & Pearson is extremely bullish about the prospects for Standard Chartered. Expecting the outlook to improve as overseas interest rates harden and loan demand increases, Galloway points out that Standard's shares stand on a higher field and lower price ratio than the London clearing banks.

The firm strongly recommends Standard's shares for recovery and long-term growth.

Vickers de Costa's latest quarterly review of the property sector looks beyond the property's recent performance for the underlying value of property values, rents, and with no immediate sign of a sharp revival in rents, Vickers remains sceptical of the sector's strength.

MLR cuts may have brought out jobbers' blue pencils. But Vickers believe that although lower interest rates argue in favour of equities, they do not automatically argue in favour of property shares. Cheaper money relieves the suffering of the ever-gearers groups, but they have only speculative interest anyway.

And apart from anomalies, such as the occasional bid, the broker awaits a real rise in rent levels before recommending the shares. In the meantime for unrepentant property bulls, it backs the industrials and the ultra-safe represented by Brixton, Hammerson, Huskisson, Land Securities and Slough.

Beardsley, Bishop suggests that despite recent recovery in L.R.C. share price the market has not yet adequately discounted the turnaround in profits already achieved or indicated for the future by the group's new management. The transition from a group primarily dependent on sales of contraceptives to a market-oriented group exploiting valuable brand names in household goods and toiletries is almost completed and should lead to more impressive long-term growth, it says.

Results this week

BAT, Inds, Clapham House Tst, English and New Tst, Kingside Inv, Pre Grp, Vintage Secs, Westinghouse Brake Standard Co.

WEDNESDAY

Interims—City of Lo Brew and Inv Tst, Co Stores, Genmt (Rov) Kelsay Mills, Mining, and Wiggins Cons, Final—AC, AC, Hires, Mallinson, Pratt (F) En, Sterling Tst.

THURSDAY

Interims—Bonn Bros, F (Albert) Gro, Kinta Rubber, Malaysia R, Western Securities, Inv, Telefusion, and Sr Firms—Assoc Fisheries, and Smith, Ladies Outerwear, and Whaling.

FRIDAY

Interims—Longton Tran (Expensive), and Allied and Stoddard Hides, Fir British American and Tst, Fereuson Ind Hides, and Glasgow Stock Ex, and Tst Textiles.

Briefly

MACDONALD

Turnover of Macdonald's food rose from £3.5m to £4.5m in the year to October 31. Loss £30,000 (profit £31,000) all closed. No dividend (gross last time). Board current improvement will be taken.

CONTINENTAL TRUST

Pre-tax income for half-year November 30 of Continental Industrial Trust up from £2 to £201,000. Net asset value ordinary 25p shares at Nov 30, 1976, 120p a share including full investment commission.

ANALOGATED DISTILL

Turnover of Analogated Distilled Products rose from £2 to £4.9m in half-year to Oct 31. Pre-tax loss of £2,000 (profit of £22,000) all closed. No interim payment. No interim payment (gross last time). Since Sept 1976, there has been a considerable improvement in profitability, it reports.

REFED & MALLIK

Pre-tax profit of £20 (£25,000) for half-year to Oct 31 on a turnover of £2.5m (£3.5m). Order book stands at about £6m. Board believes profit level maintained in second half, but payment, 0.75p (single) dividend of 1.25p for last year.

JITRA RUBBER

Pre-tax profit for year to October 31, 1976, of Jitra Rubber rose from £50,000 to £60,000. Total gross profit 1.65p (1.5p).

ASSOCIATED MINERALS

Associated Minerals Corporation's offer to acquire shares in Titanium Minerals Ltd (TMC) now holds over 99 per cent of the total issued capital Western Titanium.

DEANSON (HOLDINGS)

Mr Dennis Dean, the chairman, states in the report that turnover since Sept 1976 has been maintained. Now forecasting for the rest of year remains difficult because the uncertain and difficult conditions, which continue prevail.

WARWICK IN US

A new company has been set up in the United States by Warwick Pump & Engineering, Oxford, to market its range of high pressure power, water centrifugal pumps and access it will be known as War Pump Inc.

Psychological tests show slow progress

The limited impact which psychological testing has had in industry as a personnel selection technique is highlighted in a report published last week by the Institute of Personnel Management.

The survey which is based on 281 usable responses found that although 62 per cent of the respondents sometimes used psychological tests as part of their initial selection procedures, only 7 per cent did so all the time, and 28 per cent of the respondents did not use such tests at all.

Tests were much more commonly used in connexion with initial recruitment, than for selection for promotion. There was great variation in the extent of the application of tests to different groups of workers.

For example, almost half the companies said they sometimes used tests for selecting clerks and secretaries, while more than half the companies used tests all the time for special categories of staff, including apprentices, graduate trainees and computer staff. On the other hand, the least tested category was managers, with only 8 per cent of respondents always using tests at that level, and a further 18 per cent sometimes doing so.

It notes that younger candidates are more likely to accept tests than older ones. School leavers or recent college graduates will usually accept tests, and may indeed think them "fairer" than the examinations which many of them will have recently experienced.

Among adults, the report finds that testing may well be

acceptable from the semi-skilled level up to that of, say, the first-line supervisor, but middle or senior management are often reluctant to be tested.

Over half the responses indicated that companies were still not convinced of the efficiency of tests, while other important obstacles in their use were lack of trained personnel, lack of appropriate tests and cost.

The overriding conclusion of the report is that tests still have a long way to go to become firmly established as an integral part of the selection procedure of the British companies.

Yet it is pointed out that the ever increasing load of labour legislation will have the effect of giving ever decreasing room for manoeuvre to correct past errors in manpower matters.

"A bad selection or promotion decision can be very costly for both the company and the candidate. Use of tests, in conjunction with personal interviews by trained interviewers and well constructed application forms, can provide a basis for better decisions than the interview alone."

Just under half the respondents felt that sufficient safeguards existed to ensure that tests were not abused, and a large majority were opposed to the introduction of legislation to provide further safeguards. Nevertheless, the authors suggest that a national co-ordinating body might be useful.

*Testing People at Work by Frank Sneath, Manab Thakur and Bruce Medjuck (Institute of Personnel Management, £5 plus 42p postage and packing).

Keeping a check on the company heating system

As part of its continuing campaign to encourage economy in the use of fuel the Department of Energy is publishing a new series of statistics which can assist companies to monitor the performance of their heating systems.

It is claimed that a number of companies which have used the new statistics have obtained substantial benefits. The example of Grand Metropolitan Hotels is cited. This company has used the system for the past 18 months in 25 of its hotels in the London area, and it is claimed that this, along with other activities, has resulted in energy costs being

£100,000 less in 1976 than they otherwise would have been.

The system is based on a unit of measurement known as "degree-days". It is based on the simple proposition that the colder the weather the more heat that has to be supplied to keep a building at a given temperature. Degree-day measurements have been assembled month by month by the Meteorological Office for 17 different regions, and they will be published monthly.

Degree-days are a measure of the extent and length of time the outside air temperature has been below a notional

desired internal temperature, and they are expressed as a total for each calendar month. Fuel consumption can then be measured against the number of degree-days. Other things being equal, it would be expected that fuel consumption per degree-day for any given building should be roughly constant.

That assumption could be invalidated by changes in the use of the building or some other factors, but the general proposition is that if fuel consumption per degree-day rises markedly it may well be an indication of a deterioration in

the efficiency of the heating system.

Because of the possible impact of other factors any correlation of degree-days with fuel consumption must be made over a relatively long period, in order to smooth out the effect of these variables. The use of degree-days for monitoring the efficiency of space heating, plant is greatly complicated if the plant serves other purposes such as the provision of hot water or process steam.

*Fuel Efficiency Handbook No 7: Degree-Days. Published by the Department of Energy.

Tollemache meeting costs challenge

Like most brewers, Tollemache & Cobbold Breweries had a good year in 1976. Mr L. Butler, the group's chairman, says that with its reorganised structure behind it the board has been able to concentrate on future planning. However its actual progress is difficult to forecast.

The growing rise in the costs of running the brewery and licensed estate "must give concern", particularly when so many increases in costs are outside the control of management. More and more regulations create additional burdens on the company without corresponding benefits. Also, the rise in excise duty imposed by the Chancellor "may well have an effect on trading, especially in the first months of the new year."

However, Mr Butler believes the group is well geared to meet the challenge.

Bakers Stores off to good start

Mr Barry Baker, chairman of Bakers Household Stores (Leeds), says in his annual review that trading up to Christmas has been satisfactory, and turnover and profitability have shown growth. However, under present conditions, it would be unwise to make forecasts.

The company's reserves and liquidity continue on an extremely sound basis and the board is continuously looking to acquire further units. Also, it is intended to reequip some existing stores and bring them up to modern standards.

Cont Illinois and Scandinavian Bk

Continental Illinois, the wholly-owned international merchant banking subsidiary of the Chicago-based First National Bank of Chicago, made a profit of £300,000 for 1976, compared with £94,000 in the previous year. Lord Wakehurst, the

chairman, says the performance of the bank has been very satisfactory during its first full year. Also the International Securities Department has carried out an increasing volume of business in both the primary and secondary markets during the year.

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sure that they will maximize their own utility.

Indications are that interest rates will fall, and if so, this will make a material difference to the group's profits. The board is concerned about the inability to share the fruits of increased profitability with employees who have made such progress possible. In this respect, Mr Castle says, "we are more concerned with the level of taxation on our middle management who make such a large contribution towards the balance of payments of this country."

Provident-Cattle's

The formal offer from Provident Financial Group for Cattle's (Holdings) has been sent out. The terms of 22p cash a share, which Provident companies with the 20p quoted in the market before its offer, have already been rejected by the Cattle's board as totally inadequate.

Provident claims that there is a good fit between its resources and Cattle's, and that the latter would benefit from Provident's larger resources, particularly cash. Provident intends that Cattle's should continue to operate within the larger group and hopes that management, staff and agents will continue to work for the group. Their rights would be fully safeguarded.

Steady going at Vectis Stone

At Vectis Stone the future looks even more unpredictable than usual. Mr J. A. K. Collins, chairman, says in his annual statement, in view of the continuing economic depression.

The Civil Engineering Division has more work in hand than for some time, but an extremely wet autumn and winter is eroding margins. Collins says that current contracts will expire in mid-summer, and the future outlook of contracting for local authorities is poor.

Sales for the first quarter of the current year were disappointing in view of the inclement weather which restricted demand from the building and construction industry. The board hopes to maintain last year's level of profits. Trading profits slipped from a record £170,000 to £127,000, but net profits reached a peak at £185,000.

S & W Berisford

Although it seems even more difficult this year to forecast precise results, Mr Norman Berisford, chairman of S & W Berisford, says in his annual statement that the group now has the best management structure in its history, and he is

Iran, for instance, has experienced a 30 per cent decline in both production and exports, while Kuwait is slightly higher at 33 per cent. For Iraq, a drop could mean a loss of \$6m a day in revenues, hence its enthusiasm for oil-for-goods barter deals.

Oil companies are acting cautiously, admitting little to what steps they are taking. The two-tier pricing system naturally gives Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates an advantageous position and one which oil companies will be keen to exploit.

For the majors like BP and Shell, it is a case of walking a tightrope with the one side keeping in favour of traditional suppliers, and on the other gaining some benefit from the now-cheaper sources of supply. So far, Shell has only admitted that it is talking with Mobil about possibly buying more oil from Saudi. BP has also given a warning that a curbside in findings by the majors is inevitable.

Freight report

Tanker owners last week received good news of a long-term nature from the Opec and a repeat of bad news that they are undoubtedly already well aware of from shipping consultants H. P. Drewry.

The Opec's good news emerged from its latest review of the world energy outlook, and indicated that by 1985 if current western energy policies stay as they are, demand may well exceed supply. By that time, one can only hope the tanker crisis will be a thing of the past.

More realistic is Drewry's forecast that spot rates will continue to fall and tanker inactivity will increase at least in the short-term unless this winter proves particularly severe. This statement is supported by the recent reports that the major oil companies of a big drop in demand.

David Robinson

BAT, Asso Fisheries, Reed Int an Prestige

TODAY

Interims—Bonn Webb, C try and New Town P Howard Shuttering (Hic Leisure Caravan Parks, Lohian Inv Tst, Fins Kellock Hides, Wet (Samuel) and Sons.

TOMORROW

Interims—Bristol Eve Post, Ellis and Eversard, P (Ridley) and Sons, 1 Int (3rd qtr), Unitech, Wholesale Fittings, Fin.

Results this week

BAT, Inds, Clapham House Tst, English and New Tst, Kingside Inv, Pre Grp, Vintage Secs, Westinghouse Brake Standard Co.

WEDNESDAY

Interims—City of Lo Brew and Inv Tst, Co Stores, Genmt (Rov) Kelsay Mills, Mining, and Wiggins Cons, Final—AC, AC, Hires, Mallinson, Pratt (F) En, Sterling Tst.

THURSDAY

Interims—Bonn Bros, F (Albert) Gro, Kinta Rubber, Malaysia R, Western Securities, Inv, Telefusion, and Sr Firms—Assoc Fisheries, and Smith, Ladies Outerwear, and Whaling.

FRIDAY

Interims—Longton Tran (Expensive), and Allied and Stoddard Hides, Fir British American and Tst, Fereuson Ind Hides, and Glasgow Stock Ex, and Tst Textiles.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

robond underwriters believe that a six per cent of money has been from the Eurobond market. Government bonds announced or expected to be sold in the Eurobond market have been estimated by the London Stock Exchange to have totalled \$1,500m in January, compared with about \$1,000m in the volume of new issues announced or expected to be sold in the Eurobond market in the previous year.

Whether the Eurobond market will continue to be neglected in favour of United Kingdom bonds remains to be seen. But dealers say that the competition with the United Kingdom Government bond market is at least one element in the continuing lacklustre performance of the Eurobond market.

Another important factor in the Eurobond market's performance is weakness of the New York bond market, dealers say.

Once again, most of the Eurobond issues offered during the week declined to below issue price, in some cases by significant amounts.

However, an exception to the general trend was a \$40m 10-year issue of Occidental Overseas Finance NV, which was increased from an originally announced \$30m. Priced at par, bearing 8.75 per cent annually, the bonds were quoted on Friday at 99.25-99.75. Syndicate sources said the offering was more than twice oversubscribed, aided by a relatively high coupon rate and a generous sinking fund that will provide support in the aftermath of the issue.

None the less, another issue of Macmillan Bloedel, the Canadian pulp and paper company, did not perform very well in the aftermarket despite a high coupon rate.

Prices (yields and premiums)

| Issue | Yield | Premium |
|-------|-------|---------|
| 1981 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1982 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1983 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1984 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1985 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1986 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1987 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1988 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1989 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1990 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1991 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1992 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1993 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1994 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1995 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1996 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1997 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1998 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 1999 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2000 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2001 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2002 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2003 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2004 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2005 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2006 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2007 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2008 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2009 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| 2010 | 10.00 | 0.00 |

List of fixed interest stocks

| Stock | Price | Yield |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Bank of England | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ireland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Scotland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Wales | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cyprus | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Greece | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Italy | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of France | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Germany | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Japan | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Canada | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Australia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of New Zealand | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of South Africa | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Argentina | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Brazil | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Mexico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Chile | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Peru | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Colombia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Venezuela | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ecuador | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Bolivia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Paraguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Uruguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cuba | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Haiti | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Dominican Republic | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Puerto Rico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Barbados | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guyana | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Suriname | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guernsey | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Jersey | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guernsey | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Jersey | 100.00 | 10.00 |

| Bank | Rate |
|----------------------------|------|
| Bank of England | 13% |
| Bank of Ireland | 13% |
| Bank of Scotland | 13% |
| Bank of Wales | 13% |
| Bank of Cyprus | 13% |
| Bank of Greece | 13% |
| Bank of Italy | 13% |
| Bank of France | 13% |
| Bank of Germany | 13% |
| Bank of Japan | 13% |
| Bank of Canada | 13% |
| Bank of Australia | 13% |
| Bank of New Zealand | 13% |
| Bank of South Africa | 13% |
| Bank of Argentina | 13% |
| Bank of Brazil | 13% |
| Bank of Mexico | 13% |
| Bank of Chile | 13% |
| Bank of Peru | 13% |
| Bank of Colombia | 13% |
| Bank of Venezuela | 13% |
| Bank of Ecuador | 13% |
| Bank of Bolivia | 13% |
| Bank of Paraguay | 13% |
| Bank of Uruguay | 13% |
| Bank of Cuba | 13% |
| Bank of Haiti | 13% |
| Bank of Dominican Republic | 13% |
| Bank of Puerto Rico | 13% |
| Bank of Barbados | 13% |
| Bank of Guyana | 13% |
| Bank of Suriname | 13% |
| Bank of Guernsey | 13% |
| Bank of Jersey | 13% |

| Company | Price | Yield |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| Bank of England | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ireland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Scotland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Wales | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cyprus | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Greece | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Italy | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of France | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Germany | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Japan | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Canada | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Australia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of New Zealand | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of South Africa | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Argentina | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Brazil | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Mexico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Chile | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Peru | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Colombia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Venezuela | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ecuador | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Bolivia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Paraguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Uruguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cuba | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Haiti | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Dominican Republic | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Puerto Rico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Barbados | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guyana | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Suriname | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guernsey | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Jersey | 100.00 | 10.00 |

Hopes of a significant breakout through the gold barrier recede

The euphoria generated when the gold price reversed its headlong descent to the crucial \$100 an ounce level in late September and early October has been replaced by a more sober assessment of the situation. The International Monetary Fund auction last September and the subsequent success of the remaining auctions last year have become very much muted as hopes of a significant breakout through the \$140 level have receded.

However, the result of the latest IMF auction with the 780,000 ounces being sold at the common price of \$133.26 an ounce can be considered satisfactory even if the price was nearly \$4 below the level of the December auction, partly because this month has also seen the initial phase of the IMF restitution of members' gold.

However, the outlook is clearly uninspiring for gold buyers, even if it is likely to be aided by a very narrow range of purchases of a few hundred thousand ounces, implying yields of 20 to 25 per cent, which is the level several respectable stocks are reaching in ex premium terms, although that is something of cold comfort for United Kingdom investors going through the dollar premium.

De Beers

The four-to-five-year buy-back argument has some pretty cogent arguments in its favour and in general I would support the thesis. However, one share in particular which deserves a different treatment, De Beers, is paradoxically more open to political doubts given its heavy investment in Namibia. De Beers is, however, something of a special case. It has previously argued in this column (it is certainly a special case as regards the Anglo American empire).

My reason for returning to De Beers again is the strong support the shares gained at the end of the last week after suffering from disenchantment over De Beers' role in the tidying up of the Anglo empire.

Mining

stockbroking firm of James Capel, to reiterate his view that the political risk of investing in South Africa is not worth taking other than on the basis of a four-to-five years' purchase of dividends, implying yields of 20 to 25 per cent, which is the level several respectable stocks are reaching in ex premium terms, although that is something of cold comfort for United Kingdom investors going through the dollar premium.

Still higher tin prices in prospect as buffer stock runs dry of metal

With Bolivian reluctance to ratify the Fifth International Tin Agreement threatening the existence of the pact, and the International Tin Council's buffer stock exhausted, the scene is set for some heated exchanges when the ITC meets in March.

The ceiling price set by the ITC in December last year, \$11.325 per picul, has been well and truly breached and there is little prospect of any substantial reversal of recent steep prices in the immediate future.

An estimated current world deficit of 20,000 tonnes of tin, dwindling production and a continuing growth in consumption will all militate against price falls.

On the consumption front, brokers Rudolf Wolff have pointed out that the American tin canning season is approaching and United States steel mills can be expected to enter the market in a substantial way in the next few weeks.

Wolff's are bullish on tin and expect to see it rise more this year, with some fluctuations. They see gradually declining production being due to the emergence of new deposits in weaker concentrations of the metal than formerly. Further, many new discoveries are being found in less accessible sites. These factors tend to boost tin prices and restrain supply growth.

The smallest rise in consumption, in the medium term, could, Wolff's believe, make an impact on prices which could go as high as \$5,000 per tonne in due course.

With this sort of picture and the tin price ceiling, tin stock manager can do to rebuild stocks unless a new higher ceiling price results from the ITC.

The "escape route" would be for the United States to decide to release supplies from its General Services

Commodities

Administration (GSA) stockpile of 200,000 tonnes. But the decision of the United States to join the Fifth Agreement was linked with its reluctance to draw on GSA tin stocks.

Even if, under the new Carat Administration, there was a change of mind, it would take months for released GSA stocks to influence the market.

The United States is also among consuming nations who have been opposed to further increases in the ITC price range on the grounds that this would be formal acknowledgment of prices which they consider to be already too high.

Further, if it was proposed to raise the ceiling price, producer nations, led by Bolivia, would probably call for an increase in the minimum price of \$1.075, which would set a limit on any possible future fall.

Bolivia has said, repeatedly, that the ITC's price ranges are unrealistic. It wants the rules to be amended so that the buffer stock more effectively in containing a price surge rather than being under an obligation to sell when the price nears the ceiling.

If the buffer stock manager was able to buy at a high price, run the Bolivian argument, he would have a big stockpile when the price went even higher.

But this leads on to another of Bolivia's bones of contention: a much bigger buffer stock than the present 20,000 tonnes, financed almost entirely by the producer nations, would be required and that would mean consumer nations responding to the ITC's call to contribute to a doubling of the stock. So far, the response has been poor, with the United States a notable non-participant.

Reporting on Bolivian plans to expand tin refining capacity, the *Latin America Commodity Report* comments: "Almost everyone is now swinging round to the Bolivian view that the

argument for a higher price range is incontrovertible."

With a world deficit of 20,000 tonnes widely accepted and the likelihood that current record prices will be surpassed over the next few months, all this makes nonsense of the current ITC price range... and underlines the prophetic nature of Bolivia's warnings, first voiced strongly early last year, that unless ITC prices were raised to encourage production, the resultant shortage would cause prices to escalate.

"Bolivia now seems to have been proved right and US intransigence to have been maybe politically wise (at least in the short term) but economically foolish."

"The present situation regarding prices will really show which country is and agreement—the US or Bolivia—when the next round of ITC discussions are held."

"All reports coming from La Paz indicate that Bolivia, which is more dependent on export earnings from tin than any other ITC producer, will withdraw from the pact only if all its attempts to reach a compromise fail."

"Unlike Malaysia and Indonesia... Bolivia has no other single export item to fall back on. Figures for 1975 show that Bolivia's exports totalled \$551.1m, of which \$178m was accounted for by tin."

"Malaysia and Indonesia, too, do not face such high production costs, which explains why they voted for the compromise range in December and why Malaysia has since announced that current world prices will encourage mining expansion."

The outcome of the ITC's March meeting may well be price adjustments to meet Bolivia's case. Certainly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be very anxious to see the ITC Agreement fail, the whole tin commodity plan will be in jeopardy."

Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week FT Index change on week 4032+18.5 (4.6%)

| Unit Trust | Price | Change |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Bank of England | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ireland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Scotland | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Wales | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cyprus | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Greece | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Italy | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of France | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Germany | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Japan | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Canada | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Australia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of New Zealand | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of South Africa | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Argentina | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Brazil | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Mexico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Chile | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Peru | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Colombia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Venezuela | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Ecuador | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Bolivia | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Paraguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Uruguay | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Cuba | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Haiti | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Dominican Republic | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Puerto Rico | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Barbados | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guyana | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Suriname | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Guernsey | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Bank of Jersey | 100.00 | 10.00 |

Capitalization and week's change

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

BBC 2

7.00-8.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
8.00-9.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
9.00-10.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
10.00-11.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
11.00-12.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
12.00-1.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
1.00-2.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
2.00-3.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
3.00-4.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
4.00-5.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
5.00-6.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
6.00-7.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)

Granada

7.00-8.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
8.00-9.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
9.00-10.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
10.00-11.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
11.00-12.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
12.00-1.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
1.00-2.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
2.00-3.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
3.00-4.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
4.00-5.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
5.00-6.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
6.00-7.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)

Time Tens

7.00-8.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
8.00-9.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
9.00-10.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
10.00-11.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
11.00-12.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
12.00-1.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
1.00-2.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
2.00-3.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
3.00-4.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
4.00-5.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
5.00-6.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
6.00-7.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)

Westward

7.00-8.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
8.00-9.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
9.00-10.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
10.00-11.00 p.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
11.00-12.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
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1.00-2.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
2.00-3.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
3.00-4.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
4.00-5.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
5.00-6.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)
6.00-7.00 a.m. *The Big Game* (cont.)

U. NOTICES

of the Companies Act 1948 to the Secretary of the Companies Act 1948, London, W.C.2, to the effect that the above-named company is to be wound up and that the liquidator is to be Mr. J. W. H. Smith, of 1, The Quadrant, London, W.C.2.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of the Companies Act 1948 and in the Matter of the Companies Act 1965, the Liquidator of the above-named company is to be Mr. J. W. H. Smith, of 1, The Quadrant, London, W.C.2.

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of the week's jubilee programmes Panorama Special (BBC1 8.5) interviews with the outspoken Michael Manley and Gough Whitlam

um. You and Me. 1.00. Pebble 1.00. Camberwell Songs of Praise. 4.30. The Jackanory. 4.40. 5.05. John Craven. 5.35. Dropping. 5.35. about.

11.00-11.25 am. Play School. 12.30. Contact. 3.30. The Education Debate. 4.00-4.25. Signs of Trouble. 4.30. The Jackanory. 4.40. 5.05. John Craven. 5.35. Dropping. 5.35. about.

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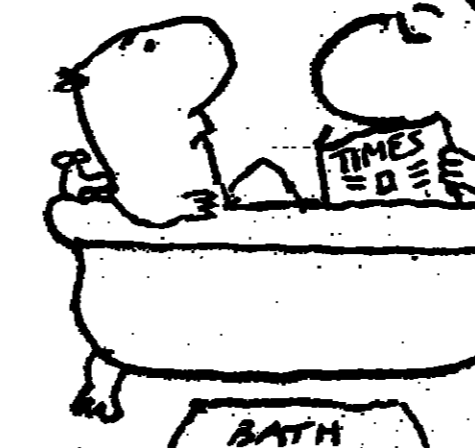
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